MOST WANTED

Jack the Ripper • Ned Kelly • Al Capone • Billy the Kid

ALL ABOUT HISTORY

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Crime stories – both real and fictional – have had us gripped for centuries. Here we line up 15 of history's most infamous villains, putting their crimes under the magnifying glass and weighing their wrongs from right. Could there be more to their wicked ways than we first believed?

Alicea Francis Production Editor

Most Wanted

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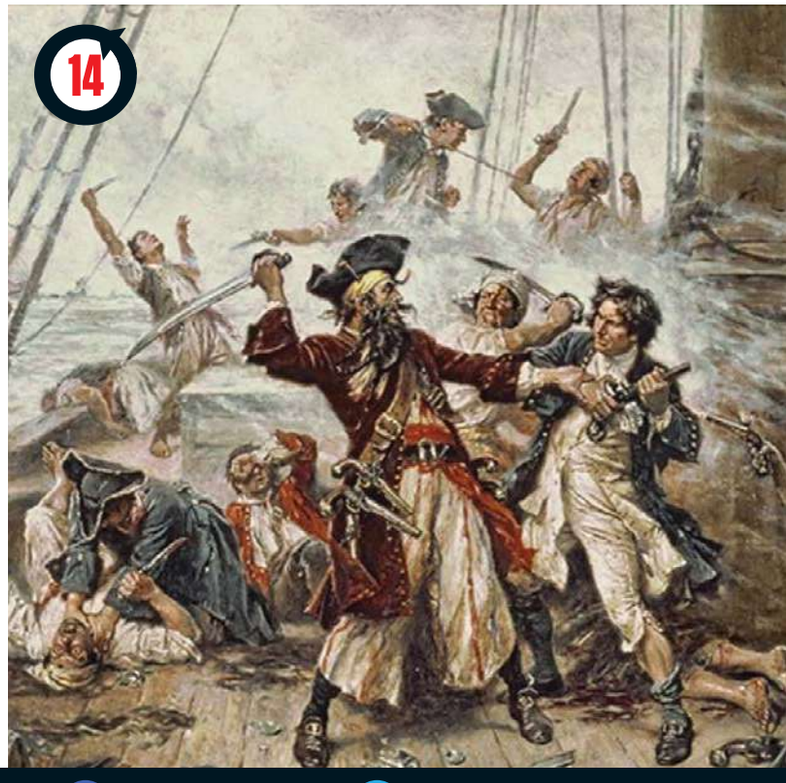
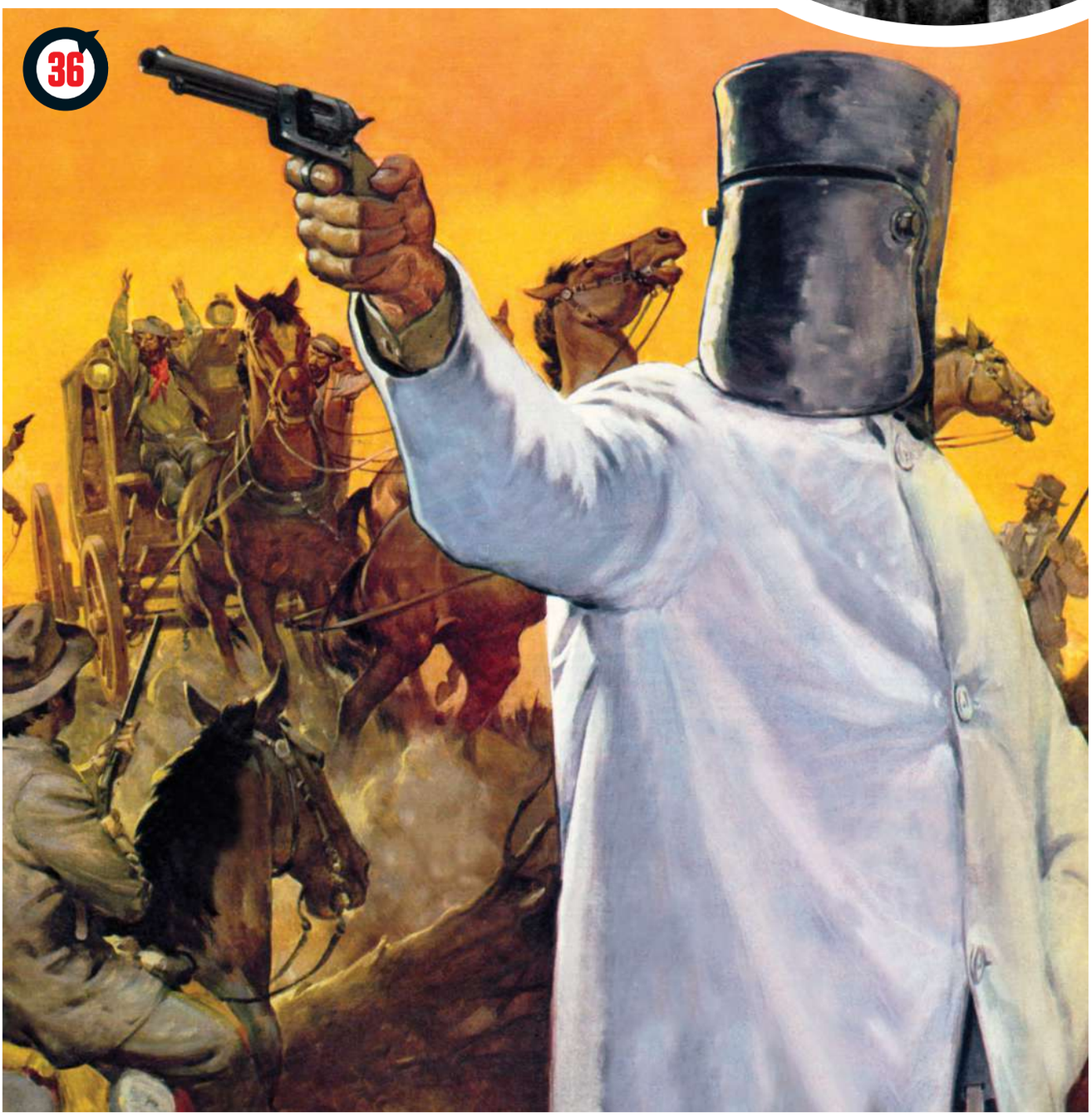




Crime across history

TRIAL OF SOCRATES

GREECE 399 BCE

One of the most famous criminal trials in history, the trial and subsequent execution of Socrates echoes through the ages. Wrongly accused of impious acts, including 'failing to acknowledge the gods that the city [of Athens] acknowledges' and 'introducing new deities', through his philosophical musings and teachings, Socrates was put before an Athenian jury and, after refusing to defend himself against the spurious charges brought against him, was sentenced to death.

His followers then encouraged him to flee from the city only for the philosopher to refuse in accordance with his philosophy of obedience to law. He then proceeded to take the law into his own hands and carried out his own execution, drinking a poisonous cup of hemlock. Today, Socrates's death is held up as an example of the unreliability of democratic rule and human-created laws.

Socrates is considered one of history's greatest minds

The Spanish Inquisition was ruthlessly efficient

Spanish Inquisition

SPAIN 1478

One of the biggest crimes in Medieval Europe was that of heresy, specifically heresy against the Catholic Christian god, resulting in the formation of the Spanish Inquisition. As such, throughout Spain and Europe, Jews, protestants and anyone perceived to be practicing witchcraft, sodomy, bigamy or blasphemy were tortured and then, once condemned - usually by forced confession - executed. Burning and hanging were the two most common punishments for the crime of heresy.

Crime timeline

Egypt's Sphinx

Ma'at is enforced
In ancient Egypt the concept of Ma'at, a set of rough ethical and moral laws aimed at maintaining balance within society and avoiding anarchy and chaos, is formed and represented by a goddess of the same name. **2500 BCE**

Greek law created
Greek scholar Zaleucus creates the Locrian Code, the first recognised written Greek code of law. Punishment for adultery is blinding, which Zaleucus sentenced his own son to. **650 BCE**

Zaleucus created the Locrian Code

Hellenistic laws superseded
By the end of Hellenistic Greece's dominance in the mid-2nd century BCE, ancient Greece has developed the most refined legal system in the world, with trials, jurors and a range of punishments for crimes. **150 CE**

Constantine crucifies crucifixion
After 1,000 years of use as a punishment for the most serious crimes within Carthaginian and Roman society, crucifixion is finally abolished by Emperor Constantine I. **337 CE**

Trial by Ordeal
The first recorded example of Trial by Ordeal, a process where alleged criminals had to prove their innocence by passing a physical test, is written, describing how the process involved combat or body mutilation by fire or water. **590 CE**

2500 BCE — 1500BCE — 500BCE — 250BCE — 0 — 200 — 400 — 600 — 800 — 1000 — 1200

Egyptians were law-giving pioneers

Middle Kingdom expansion
From the close of ancient Egypt's Middle Kingdom, Egyptian society develops a variety of legalised punishments for crimes, ranging from caning for theft to decapitation for tomb robbing. **1664 BCE**

Gortyn code laid down
The civil law of the ancient city-state of Gortyn, southern Crete, is created and laid down in the Gortyn code, dictating punishments for various civil crimes. **400 BCE**

The Gortyn code

Septimus Severus sanctions mass executions
The draconian Roman emperor, who seized power in 193 CE, oversees the executions of between 1,000 to 3,000 Christians and Jews who refuse to renounce their religious beliefs. **210 CE**

Stocks go huge
Entering the Medieval period, the use of placing convicted criminals in stocks becomes widespread, with their punishment involving being pelted with rotten fruit by others while incapacitated. **500 CE**

The stocks provided a very public punishment

Islamic law collated
Famous scholar al-Shafi'i outlines the four sources of Islamic law in his book Al-Risala, with older tribal laws adapted. **800 CE**

Tutankhamun's tomb turned over

EGYPT 1323 BCE

Excavated evidence suggests Tutankhamun's tomb was plundered the same year he was buried, with thieves making off with perfumes, oils and small objects of different value. The tomb was raided at least twice prior to its re-discovery by Howard Carter in 1924. The punishment for tomb raiding in ancient Egypt was death, so whoever broke in was either very brave or very foolish.

The Gunpowder Plot

ENGLAND 1605

An infamous failed assassination attempt against King James I of England by a group of English Catholics led by Robert Catesby, the Gunpowder Plot was so climactic that it is still celebrated annually in England on Bonfire night (5 November). Catesby and his men plotted to blow up the House of Lords during the State Opening of England's Parliament by igniting 36 barrels of gunpowder beneath the building. However, the plot was leaked and after capture the conspirators were convicted of high treason, with most hanged, drawn and quartered as a result.

Robert Catesby was one of the leaders of the Gunpower Plot

Jack the Ripper was never found

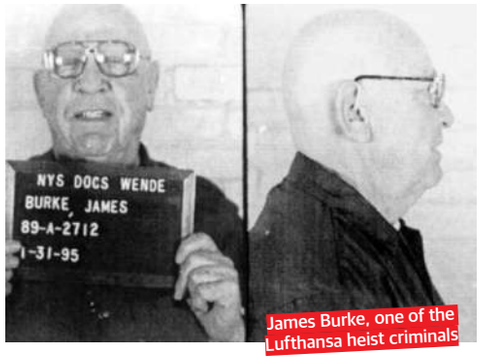
The Whitechapel murders
ENGLAND 1888

One of history's most infamous unsolved series of crimes, the Whitechapel murders by Jack the Ripper, are now legendary, with the killer's identity never discovered and the culprit never apprehended. The Ripper killed five women in 1888, slitting their throats before disemboweling them. Various suspects as to who the Ripper was have since been postulated, but with no definitive evidence discovered it remains a mystery.

The Great Train Robbery
ENGLAND 1963

The Great Train Robbery saw a gang of 15 men attack and take control of a Royal Mail train travelling between Glasgow and London. The gang made off with a figure just over £2.6 million ($4.3 million), the equivalent of £46 million ($75 million) today. Following the raid, the gang hid out at a farmhouse. They were eventually tracked down and the evidence found there was used to hunt down and catch the majority of the gang. However, only around £400,000 ($650,000) was recovered.

Ronald Arthur Biggs took part in the Great Train Robbery



James Burke, one of the Lufthansa heist criminals

THE LUFTHANSA HEIST
USA 1978

Reimagined in numerous gangster movies, including Goodfellas, the Lufthansa Heist in 1978 saw the collaborating Lucchese and Gambino crime families take more than $5 million (£3.1 million) in less than an hour from a cash and jewel-filled vault at New York's JFK airport. None of the stolen money and jewelry were ever recovered, although almost everyone involved with the heist were either later killed or captured.

Trial by Ordeal found guilty
From 1215 CE onward, accused criminals are typically tried by jury rather than by Ordeal. **1215 CE**

Torture legalised
While torture has been used for centuries, Elizabethan England institutionalises it, with the use of the rack, collar and iron maiden allowed on alleged criminals during interrogation. **1558 CE**

Legalised torture in Elizabethan England

Australia becomes destination du jour
Following the American Revolution, Australia becomes the destination for criminals found guilty of felonies in English courts, being forcibly transported thousands of miles to endure manual labour. **1788 CE**

Convicts in the leather shop

Electric chair switched on
The electric chair is invented by employees of Thomas Edison and quickly adopted by the US Government as a method of execution for criminals found guilty of murder. The chair is still in use today in certain US states. **1890 CE**

The electric chair in use

Assassination of Conservative MP
Airey Neave, shadow minister for Northern Ireland is killed by a car bomb. The Irish National Liberation Army claims responsibility. **1979 CE**

1300 | 1500 | 1600 | 1700 | 1800 | 1900 | 1950 | 2000 | 2013

Hanged, drawn and quartered
From the mid-14th century, the most serious crimes in England – including anything that could be classed as high treason – is punished by the individual being hanged until half-dead, cut into quarters and then disemboweled. **1351 CE**

Hanging was just the start of some punishments

Half-hanged Smith
English house-breaker John Smith sets the record for most hanging survivals, walking away from three gallows. This earned him the nickname 'Half-hanged Smith'. **1705 CE**

Murder of a president
American president Abraham Lincoln is shot by stage actor John Wilkes Booth on April 14, towards the end of the American Civil War. **1865 CE**

Desertion made a capital crime
From the outset of World War I, desertion from the army is punishable by firing squad. From 1914 to 1920, 306 British and Commonwealth soldiers are executed for desertion. **1914 CE**

Hacking criminalised
Owning hacking tools on a personal computer is made illegal for the first time in Europe, with those found guilty punishable with jail sentences. **2007 CE**

Hacking is a very modern crime

Butch Cassidy bank raid USA 1889

Famous US outlaw Butch Cassidy was one of the country's most successful criminals, robbing trains and ranches at will. His biggest heist was on the San Miguel Valley Bank in Telluride, Colorado. On 24 June 1889, Cassidy and three armed cowboys made off with a whopping $20,000 (£12,000), which made him one of the most wanted men in the country. Following the heist, Cassidy took refuge in the now-famous 'Hole in the Wall' hideout in Wyoming.

Butch Cassidy (centre-front) and his gang

The Scream stolen
NORWAY 1994

The Scream is one of the world's most famous and valuable paintings, which is why there was an international outcry when it was stolen from the National Gallery of Norway in 1994. Two men, a ladder, wire cutters and 50 seconds is all it took to whisk the painting away, much to the gallery security's horror. A month later, the criminals offered it back in exchange for $1 million (£610,000). However, this was declined and a couple of months later the painting was recovered in a sting operation. The four men responsible were sentenced for theft and handed lengthy prison sentences.

The Scream was recovered in a sting operation

© Thinkstock; Alamy; Spboarthwick

★WANTED★

10 INFAMOUS OUTLAWS

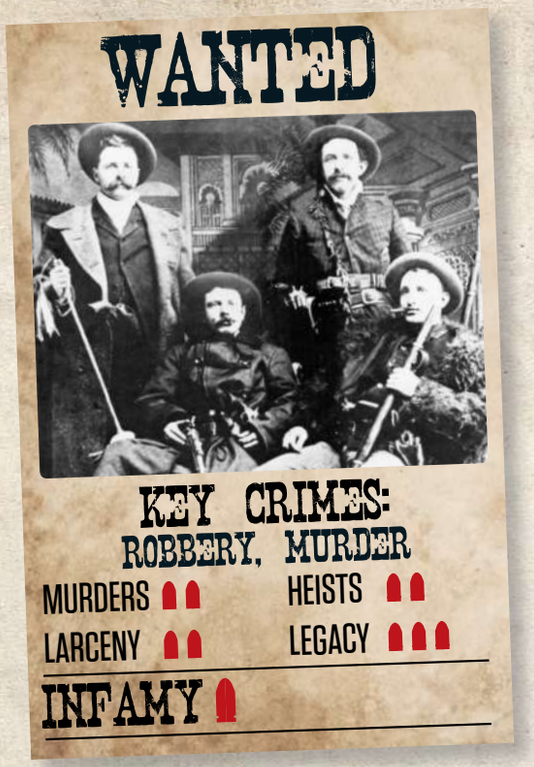
From highway robbers to Wild West bandits and fearless freedom fighters, pass your own verdict on some of history's most audacious and enduring criminals

Written by Jonny O'Callaghan

Across history there are countless villains that have robbed and murdered their way to riches. Some of these are revered among their countrymen as legends, while others have been vilified.

History is littered with outlaws that have romanticised what it means to be a criminal. Many are quick to be labelled as that era or region's 'Robin Hood" (the famed outlaw from 13th-century English folklore), but in truth most of these men and women only had their own interests at heart.

From Roman England through to the 21st century we've picked out ten of the most notorious rogues that ever roamed free, with each performing devilish and memorable enough deeds to earn a place in this roundup of enduring outlaws.



★10★

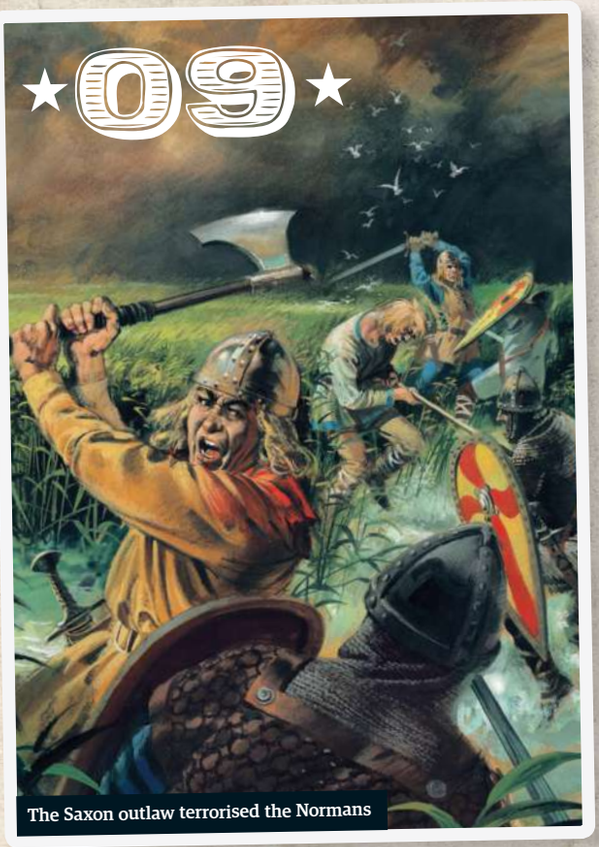
JESSE JAMES 1847-1882

Born in Kearney, Missouri, to hemp farmers Robert and Zerelda James, the life of Jesse James and his brother Frank would change for ever when, in the summer of 1863, Union soldiers attacked the Confederate James' farm.

Angered by the brutality of the Union, Jesse and Frank turned to crime and, following the Confederacy's defeat in spring 1865, led their newly formed James Gang on a vendetta against any institution the North had laid its hands on. Banks, trains and more were all considered fair game to Jesse and his gangmates, often with gruesome outcomes for those involved beyond just theft. The notoriety of the James Gang spread far and wide in the Confederate states, with many declaring them heroes and even modern-day 'Robin Hoods'. In reality they kept most of their plunder for themselves, and were not adverse to resorting to murder to achieve their goals. Overall it's now thought that they were responsible for dozens of robberies and numerous murders, with their stolen money totalling in the thousands of dollars. On 3 April 1882, however, Jesse was betrayed by gang member Robert 'Bob' Ford who shot him in the back of the head to claim a sizable reward, thus bringing an end to Jesse James's short but illustrious career as an outlaw.

HEREWARD THE WAKE

★09★



The Saxon outlaw terrorised the Normans

CIRCA 1035-CIRCA 1072

Also known as Hereward the Outlaw, this notorious rogue from the Middle Ages has been written into many fictitious legends of times gone by, but his existence is all but a certainty.

A Saxon descended from Danes he was exiled by King Edward the Confessor to Europe aged 14. When William the Conqueror became king of England in 1066, Hereward returned. With the Normans having slain his brother and taken his family's land, Hereward wreaked vengeance upon the French and displayed the heads of his fallen enemies above his door.

After a failed attempt to take the throne in 1070, Hereward was forced to live as an outlaw in the forests of the Fens in eastern England. He was a constant thorn in King William's side, however, and ultimately the king agreed to give Hereward's land back in return for a truce in hostilities.

"Hereward displayed the heads of his fallen enemies above his door"

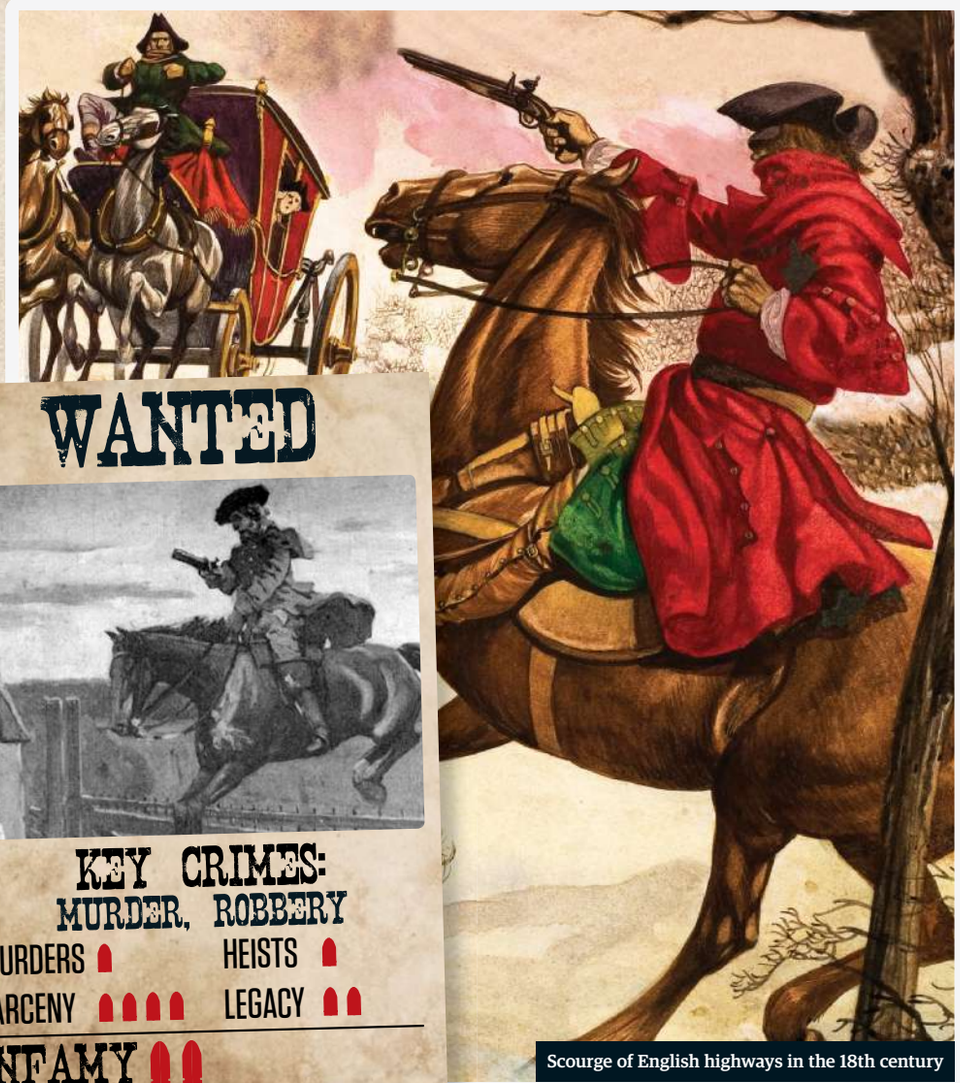
★08★ DICK TURPIN 1705-1739

This highway robber has gone down in history as one of the most notorious British legends, but Dick Turpin's crimes are often portrayed in a much more charming light than the grisly reality.

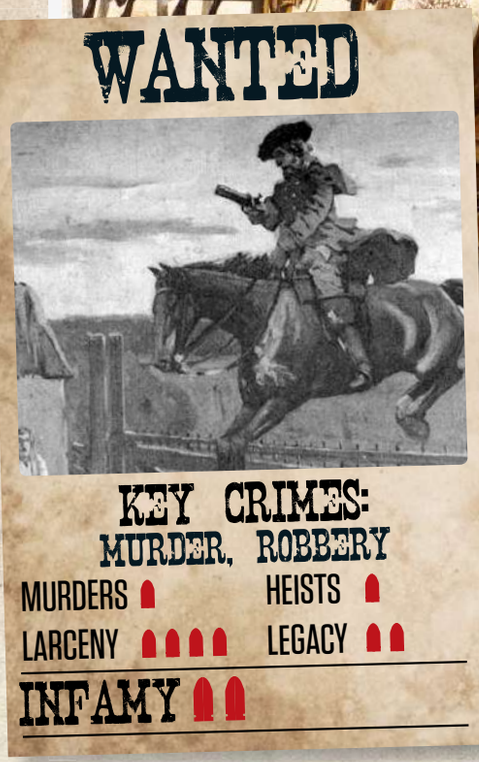
Born in Essex, England, in 1705, he began his working life as a butcher before falling into a gang. By 1735 he had become a highwayman, holding up stagecoaches and robbing the rich of their money and valuables. In 1737, however, he was recognised by servant Thomas Morris and things quickly escalated. After Turpin shot Morris dead, a Royal Proclamation was issued for his capture.

After changing his identity to a horse dealer by the name of John Palmer and moving to the village of Brough in East Yorkshire, Turpin was eventually arrested for shooting a cockerel and stealing horses.

However, his true identity came to light when his handwriting was recognised in a letter which he'd sent to his brother-in-law, and it wasn't long before he was found guilty of his former crimes and hanged on 7 April 1739. His misdeeds as a highwayman may leave some to remember him as a lovable rogue, but make no mistake, this robber had a dark side – and blood on his hands.



Scourge of English highways in the 18th century



★07★ BELLE STARR 1848-1889

Belle Starr was a renowned outlaw from the American 'Old West'. She was born near Carthage, Missouri, in 1848, receiving a classical education – learning how to play the piano, for instance. But from an early age she was involved with some of the country's most notorious criminals, including Jesse James, and her reputation as one of the few female outlaws would earn her the nickname 'The Bandit Queen'. She would ride her mare, Venus, stealing horses and cattle as she drifted through the fringes of the Wild West. She became involved in the Starr clan, an outlaw Cherokee family, after the death of her first husband in 1874. Here she was the front for the bootleggers among their clan, but was captured along with her second husband for rustling horses – serving nine months in prison as punishment. After a life of crime and a string of husbands who fell foul of the law, Belle Starr was shot in the back by an unknown assailant in 1889.

★06★ AL CAPONE

1899-1947

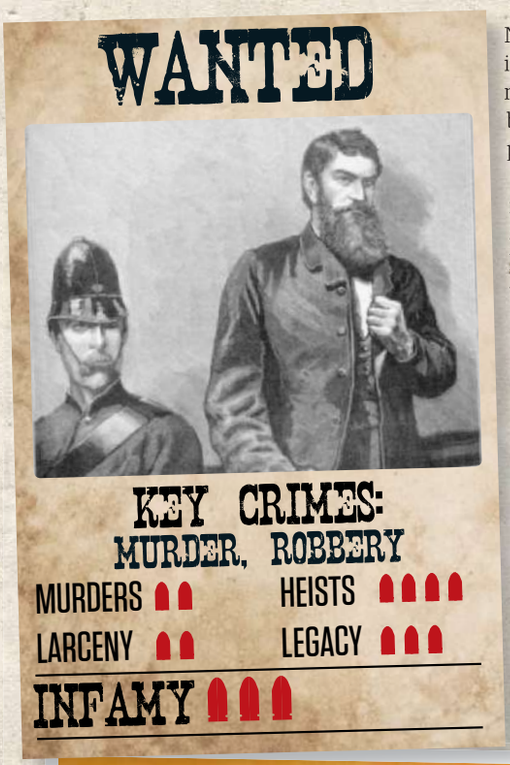
Born in Brooklyn, New York, on 17 January 1899, Alphonse 'Al' Capone would go on to become one of the most infamous American gangsters. His squalid beginnings, coupled with a timid and law-abiding family, hid what he would become.

At the age of ten Capone met gangster Johnny Torrio, who taught him how to run a racketeering business. Eight years later he was hired by the brutal gangster Frankie Yale as a bouncer and bartender, receiving his famous scar in an altercation on the job. In 1925, following the serious injury of Torrio in an assassination attempt, Capone was appointed head of the Chicago mafia. He ran the streets with his mob and had several high-ranking officials across the city on his payroll.

After a failed attempt at killing Bugs Moran – a member of a rival Chicago gang – in 1929, Capone was tracked down by Eddie O'Hare and the IRS and sentenced to 11 years in prison for tax evasion on 24 November 1914 (partly served at Alcatraz). After his release in 1939, he spent time in hospital before moving to his estate in Miami, FL, where he died of a stroke and pneumonia – but not before having his former lawyer O'Hare killed for his betrayal.

★05★ NED KELLY

1855-1880



Ned Kelly is one of the most infamous outlaws in Australian history. Born in Victoria he had numerous run-ins with the law as a youth. In fact, by the age of 19 he'd served over three years in prison, primarily for stealing a horse.

It was at 22 years old that the life of an outlaw really begun for Kelly. He was accused of shooting a police officer in the hand, forcing him to go into hiding with his brother Dan. The two teamed up with friends Joe Byrne and Steve Hart and, when Kelly's mother was arrested and sentenced to three years in prison, his hatred of the law only intensified. Kelly and his gang ambushed a police camp a few months later resulting in the deaths of three policemen, after which a bounty was placed on Kelly and his gang in November 1878. Despite this, the gang would go on to rob a number of banks in the ensuing months, becoming notorious across Australia.

Following a standoff with police at a hotel in 1880, Kelly – wearing his now famous cobbled-together plate armour and metal helmet – found himself alone after the death of the other members of his gang. He was sentenced to be hanged on 11 November 1880, aged just 25.

Ned Kelly, the terror of the Australian outback

★04★ BOUDICA

UNKNOWN-CIRCA 61 CE

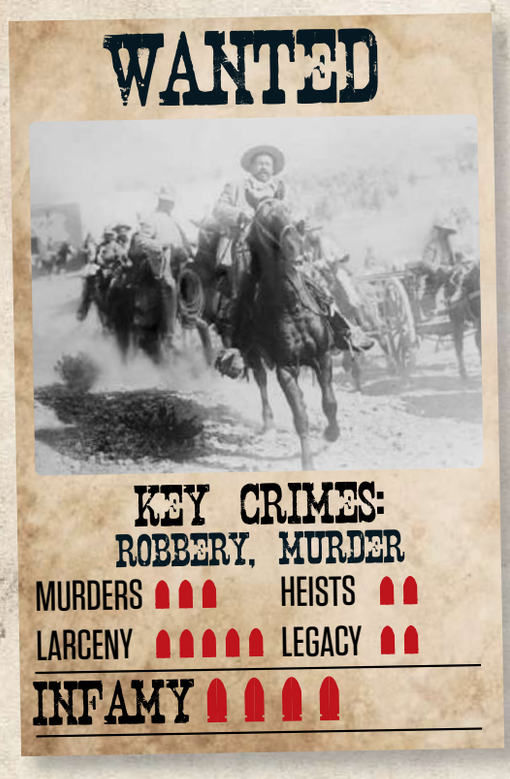
In the face of brutality from the Roman Empire which conquered southern England in 43 CE, one female outlaw stood strong and led her Celtic tribe against their oppressors. Boudica was the wife of Prasutagus, the head of the Iceni tribe in east England, earning herself the name 'Queen of the Iceni'. Following the Roman invasion of Britain, two Celtic kings were allowed to continue to reign over their domains – one being Prasutagus. But following his death around 60 CE, the Romans laid claim to Iceni territory.

After numerous atrocities against her people, Boudica led an uprising against the Romans. She took 100,000 Iceni to the Roman capital in Camulodunum (now Colchester) and drove the invaders out, burning the city to the ground.

She marched on to destroy Londinium (now London) and Verulamium (now St Albans) before, weary from battle and travelling, her army succumbed to a Roman counterattack.

Legend has it that, to avoid capture by the Romans, Boudica killed herself with poison – an inglorious end to an outlaw who struck a legendary blow to the mighty Roman Empire.

Celtic leader Boudica was one of the few to beat the Romans in battle, if only for a few months



★03★ PANCHO VILLA

1878-1923

Not all of the outlaws in our roundup stuck purely to a life of crime. Some, like Mexican Doroteo Arango – better known as Pancho Villa, began as a renegade but 'went straight' later on, albeit in revolutionary circumstances.

After hunting down and killing a man he believed had sexually assaulted his sister, Villa lived life as a bandit in the hills of Durango, Mexico. After dices with the authorities, however, Villa mixed the life of an outlaw with legitimate pursuits. He was later convinced to join the Mexican Revolution and led armies against the government of the time. But when America intervened in 1916 – which coincidentally had been hunting for Villa due to his role in the revolution – Villa's power began to wane and he ultimately surrendered in exchange for a large swathe of land in Chihuahua. Villa was assassinated while he was driving in July 1923.

"Pancho Villa mixed the life of an outlaw with legitimate pursuits"

★02★

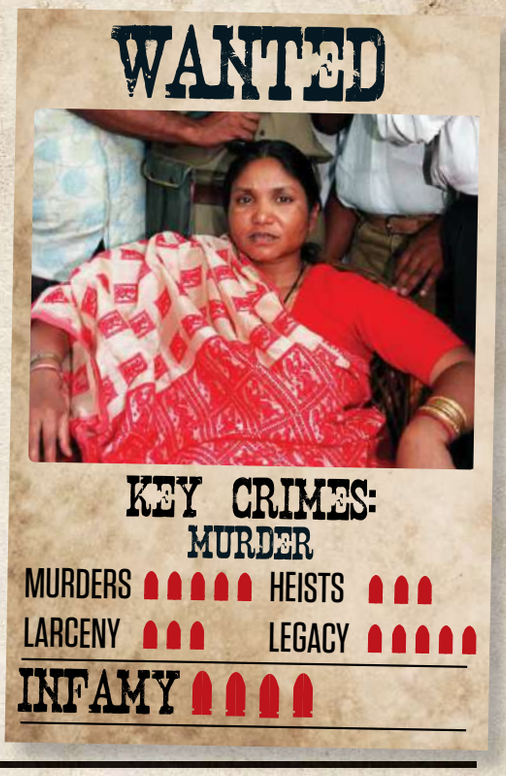
PHOOLAN DEVI

1963-2001

Phoolan Devi was the 'Bandit Queen' of the East, or more specifically India. Devi was born in the village of Ghura ka Purwa to a relatively poor family who were treated badly by those of a higher caste. Aged 11 Devi was married to an older man who abused her, but she managed to escape to work with her father and sister. She had a fiery temper, typified by her destroying a house they had built after the owner refused to pay for it.

She suffered further abuse – this time at the hands of some of her villagers – before leaders of the village handed her to a bandit gang in the hope they would be rid of her. It was a fatal error because, as it turned out, she became an integral member of the gang. She returned to the village and murdered all those that had abused her – a killing spree known as the Behmai Massacre.

In 1983, Devi and her gang surrendered after committing further crimes. She spent 11 years in prison before becoming an MP in 1996. However, she was assassinated in 2001 by a man claiming vengeance for the Behmai murders.



★01★

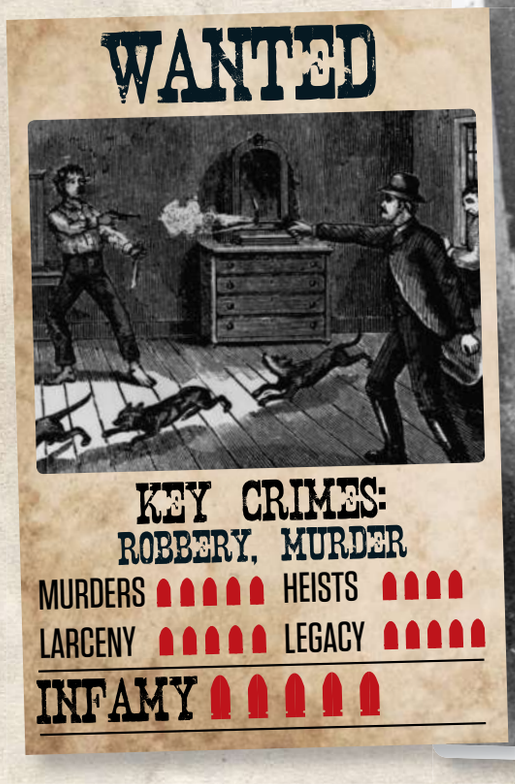
BILLY THE KID

1859-1881

Perhaps no name evokes the image of an outlaw more than that of Henry McCarty – more commonly known as Billy the Kid. His death at such a young age (21), coupled with some less than savoury pursuits, has seen this figure become a staple fixture of the American Wild West.

Although born in New York City, as he grew up McCarty and his family moved across the country to New Mexico via brief stints in Indiana and Kansas. With the death of his mother in 1874, McCarty soon turned to a life of crime. He was apprehended for a robbery at the age of 16 but fled to Arizona, where he became a prominent horse rustler.

A string of deaths followed McCarty. It's often said that he killed 21 men – one for each year of his life – although his true head count is thought to have been closer to nine. His last kills, however, were two guards holding him hostage after he had been found guilty of killing Sheriff William Brady. McCarty was gunned down at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in 1881, bringing an end to a short-lived career but leaving a long-lasting legacy.



"It's often said that he killed 21 men – one for each year of his life"

© Alamy, Getty, Corbis, Look and Learn

Top 5 facts
CARLOS THE JACKAL

A SELF-STYLED POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND ONE THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS HIRED GUNS
VENEZUELAN, 1949-

01 CARLOS IS NOT HIS REAL NAME
It is alleged that Ilich Ramírez Sánchez was nicknamed 'Carlos' by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine because of his South American roots. When a copy of the novel *Day of the Jackal* was found in his belongings, *The Guardian* newspaper completed his alter ego.

02 He trained in Cuba
Born in Venezuela into a family with clear communist political beliefs – one of his younger siblings was named Lenin – it was always likely this would be an important part of his life. A member of the Venezuelan communist party in his teenage years, he reportedly had his first guerrilla training in Cuba in the mid-1960s before joining the PFLP in the 1970s.

03 He often made mistakes
Despite his reputation as one of the world's most feared assassins, he often failed in his objectives. His early missions were not successful; he shot but did not kill chairman of the Marks and Spencer's retail chain Joseph Edward Sieff in his London home, and in 1975 twice attempted to launch rocket-propelled grenades at Israeli airlines at an airport in France, but missed on both occasions.

04 He escaped capture
His most infamous incident occurred in 1975 when he, along with five other attackers, broke into a building holding a meeting of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) leaders in Austria. Three people were killed and several wounded as they took over the building before more than 60 hostages were taken. Carlos and his accomplices boarded an aeroplane with 11 of the hostages, all of whom were later released in exchange for a ransom, and Carlos escaped to Algeria.

05 He will spend his life in jail
He was arrested in 1994 by French special forces in Sudan after the Sudanese government sold him out, and by 1997 was convicted of the 1975 killing of two French secret agents and a Lebanese revolutionary. In 2011, he was brought to trial again and found guilty of killing 11 people in bomb attacks in the 1980s, and ordered to serve another life sentence. His appeal failed and he is extremely likely to spend the rest of his life in jail.

ILICH RAMÍREZ SÁNCHEZ (CARLOS THE JACKAL)

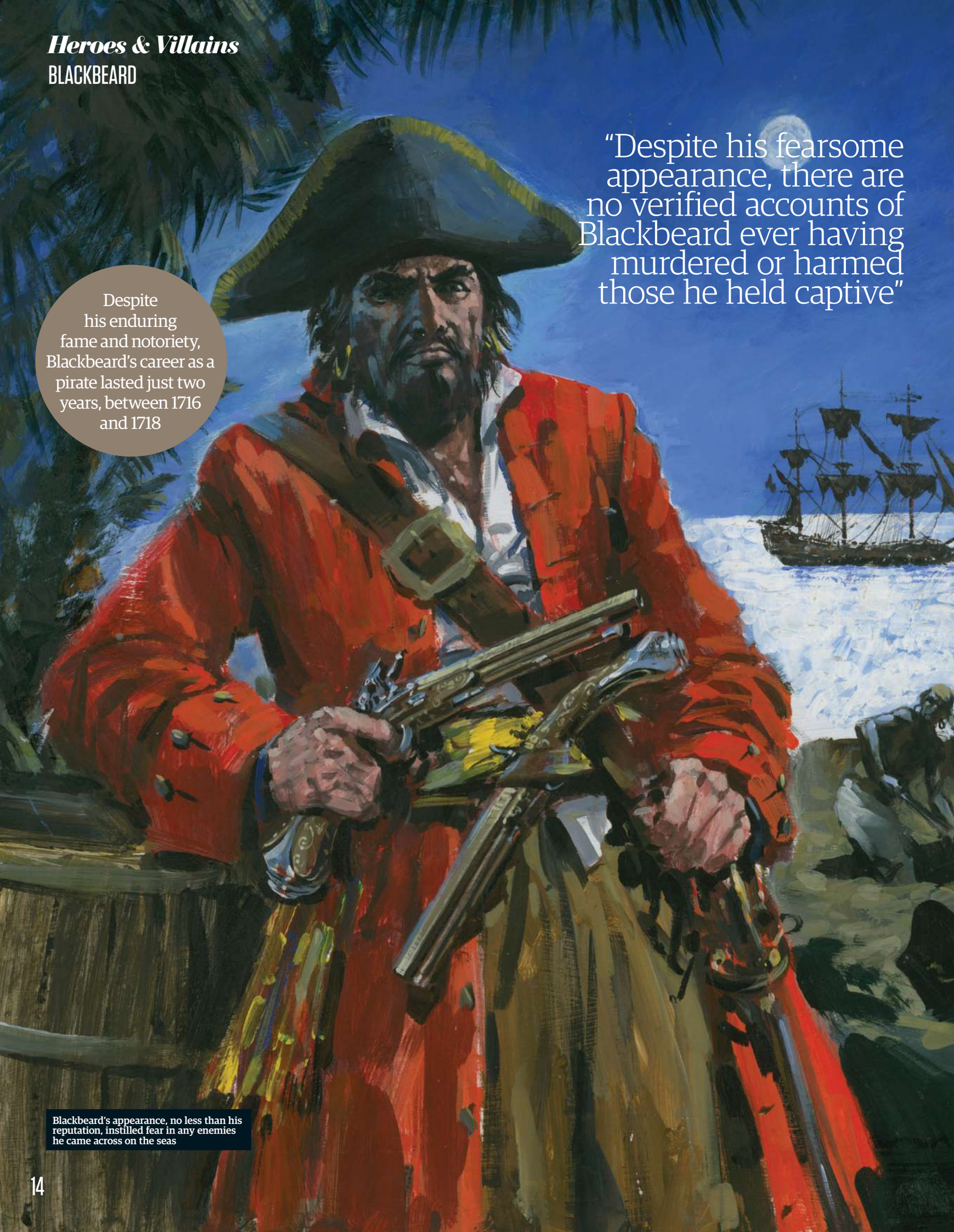
Brief Bio

One of the world's best-known assassins, the name Carlos the Jackal was synonymous with assassinations and terrorist attacks for much of the 1970s and 1980s. He was been charged with the murders of 14 people, but the real number is estimated to be much higher – although not as high as he himself claims. In 1994 he was handed over to the French police by the Sudanese government where he was hiding from authorities.

© Corbis

"Despite his fearsome appearance, there are no verified accounts of Blackbeard ever having murdered or harmed those he held captive"

Despite his enduring fame and notoriety, Blackbeard's career as a pirate lasted just two years, between 1716 and 1718



Blackbeard's appearance, no less than his reputation, instilled fear in any enemies he came across on the seas

Heroes & Villains

Blackbeard

Blackbeard is synonymous with the golden age of piracy, but was he a formidable pirate or a masterful image cultivator?

Written by Rachel England

Fearsome pirate and terroriser of the oceans, Blackbeard has become a legendary figure in seafaring stories, making his mark on history books despite a career spanning just two years.

Little is known about early life of Edward Teach – the moniker 'Blackbeard' not coming to life until many years after his birth, which historians estimate to be around 1680. Little is known of his true identity, either. Records exist for Edward Teach, Thatch and Thack, among others, and it was common at the time for pirates to use fake names, so as not to tarnish their family's reputation. His real identity will probably always be unknown.

Teach was raised in the sea port of Bristol and likely began his career as a privateer, or 'corsair' – a person authorised by a government to attack foreign vessels during wartime – during the Spanish War of Succession, also known as Queen Anne's War.

After the war, he set off to the island of New Providence, a largely uninhabited area home only to pirates, traders and transients, where law and order dared not tread. Here he met renowned pirate Benjamin Hornigold, and like others looking for a life of adventure and riches, joined his ship as a crewman. But Hornigold saw something special in Teach. As historian Charles Johnson wrote in his 1724 book, *A General History Of The Robberies And Murders Of The Most Notorious Pyrates*, Teach "had often distinguished himself for his uncommon boldness and personal courage." Hornigold put Teach in command of a sloop, a small sailing boat with a single mast, and together they began a reign of terror along colonial shipping lanes.

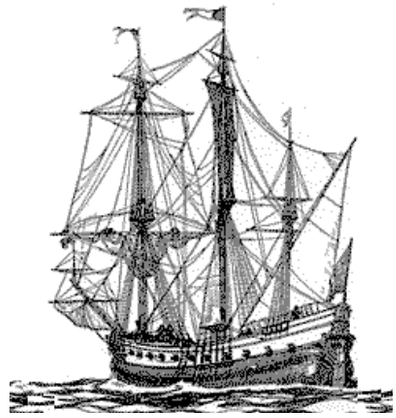
The duo were successful, but inconsistent. Ships at the time very rarely carried precious cargo – and certainly it would be rare to happen upon chests of gold and silver – so pirates relied on looting general goods such as cocoa, cotton and rum, either for their own use, or to sell for reasonable amounts at ports. Hornigold and Teach's strategy, however, seemed mixed. In September 1717, for example, they captured the ship Betty, from Virginia, but only took its stores of Madeira wine before sinking the ship and its remaining cargo.

Come the end of 1717 – by which time Teach, now known as Blackbeard thanks to his impressive facial hair, had his own ship – the valuable cargo from British ships had become too tempting for the fleet's crew. Fearing mutiny, Hornigold retired from piracy, leaving Teach in charge and accepting a royal pardon. It was around this time that Stede Bonnet, also known as 'The Gentleman Pirate', joined Teach. A land owner and military officer from a wealthy family, Bonnet was unable to control his rowdy crew and so ceded control to Teach. The expanded party sailed together as one.

The wreck of Blackbeard's mighty ship, Queen Anne's Revenge, was found in 1996 off the coast of Carolina

Up until now, Teach, or Blackbeard, as official reports had begun referring to him, had proven himself to be a strong, respected leader and a capable pirate, but it was in November 1717 that the legend really came to life. After attacking French merchant vessel La Concorde off the coast of Saint Vincent, Teach took the ship as his own, renaming it Queen Anne's Revenge and equipping it with 40 guns. It was a large, imposing vessel, flying a sinister flag showing a skeleton spearing a heart – an image that quickly became synonymous with terror on the high seas the world over, and one that perfectly fit the image Blackbeard had cultivated.

A tall, broad man with a thick beard covering most of his face, Blackbeard was a frightening figure – something he played to during battle, when he



Blackbeard's famous ship was the illegally obtained Queen Anne's Revenge

Life in the time of Blackbeard

Queen Anne's War

Blackbeard's career as a pirate coincided with the end of the War of the Spanish Succession, which meant thousands of seamen were relieved of military duty, creating a huge number of highly trained, but bored sailors at a time when the cross-Atlantic colonial shipping trade began to boom. As such, pirate captains had a constant pool of recruits.

Pirates as patrons

While pirates of the time were often viewed as despicable rogues of the sea, official views were sometimes quite different, with the English government considering privateers who became pirates a kind of informal 'reserve naval force'. Royal pardons were regularly issued to pirates and public opinion was often favourable toward them.

Female pirates

Piracy was certainly seen as a man's game, which is why the two famous female pirates – Anne Bonny and Mary Read – disguised themselves as men. When their ship was assaulted in 1720, the two women – along with just one other man – were the only ones to defend it, as the other crew members were too drunk to fight.

A pirate's life

Life aboard a sailing ship was anything but comfortable. The crew lived in cramped and filthy quarters, food spoiled quickly and fresh water was hard to come by (which is why so many pirates drank rum instead). One dietary staple was 'hard tack', a type of biscuit that sailors often ate in the dark to avoid seeing the weevils infested within.

Superstition at sea

Pirates and sailors were notoriously superstitious, believing that having women on board their ship was bad luck – which was surely a problem for the crew of the womanising Blackbeard – and that whistling on a ship would create a storm, hence the phrase 'whistle up a storm'. Many pirates also believed having pierced ears would improve their eyesight.

Pieces of eight

Thanks largely to fictionalised stories such as *Treasure Island*, the idea of 'buried treasure' is commonly associated with pirates from this era, and Blackbeard is no exception. But there's no evidence to suggest that he ever buried any valuables, and nothing that's been unearthed – save for the wreckage of Queen Anne's Revenge – has ever been attributed to him. In fact, the only known pirate to ever bury anything valuable was William Kidd, who sailed the seas long before Blackbeard. But that's not stopped adamant treasure hunters from combing the Carolina coast, just in case.

The booty that Blackbeard and his contemporaries would plunder was more likely to be composed of perishable items such as cocoa and rum, rather than the chests of gold and silver commonly described in myth and legend. These goods in bulk still held value, and given the dangers of piracy at the time, most knew it was foolish to transport valuables across the sea.

Legend has it that his skull was used to make a silver drinking chalice, with one 1930s judge in Carolina claiming to have drunk from it

Despite his fearsome reputation, Blackbeard was something of a ladies' man, and is said to have had 14 wives

wore three pistols across his chest and put lit matches under his hat to create a terrifying mist from which he would emerge like the devil himself. As Johnson wrote, he was "such a figure that imagination cannot form an idea of a fury from hell to look more frightful." Blackbeard was a man who understood the importance of appearances, and thought it better to strike fear into the hearts of his enemies than rely on skill alone.

But despite his fearsome appearance, there are no verified accounts of Blackbeard ever having murdered or harmed those he held captive – although the cannon fire involved in forcing other ships into subservience no doubt killed many. Those who surrendered were allowed to sail free, albeit without their possessions. Those that resisted were marooned and their ships torched, but still they escaped with their lives.

However there are numerous legends and newspaper clippings that suggest – despite his relative mercy toward captured ships – he was a man of cruelty. One story claims he shot his own first mate, saying "if he didn't shoot one or two [crewmen] now and then, they'd forget who he was." Another says that after a long drinking session he challenged his crew to sit in the ship's hold while they set alight several pots of sulphur. All except Blackbeard scrambled out for fresh air, with the captain later emerging, snarling, "Damn ye, I'm a better man than all ye milksops put together!" Some even claim Blackbeard would force his young wives to prostitute themselves to groups of his companions, while he would look on, laughing.

In May of 1718, Blackbeard once again demonstrated his dual personality, during the Blockade of Charleston where he showed both mercy and menace. His flotilla blocked the port of Charleston, and with no guard ship at the port the pirates had their pick of ships. They took over the Crowley, a vessel bound for London carrying a group of prominent Charleston citizens, including Samuel Wragg, a member of the Council of the Province of Carolina. Blackbeard demanded a chest of medical supplies from the South Carolina government, and threatened to execute his captives if his demands were not met.

Wragg – acting as spokesperson for the hostages and no doubt using his social standing to his advantage – agreed, and one hostage, Mr Marks, was sent with two pirates to retrieve the supplies. Blackbeard imposed a deadline of two days. After three days, the party hadn't returned, and the hostages became frantic, fearing Blackbeard's wrath. Eventually a message arrived: Mark's boat

"Teach took the ship as his own, renaming it Queen Anne's revenge and equipping it with 40 guns"

Defining moment

Teach becomes a pirate 1716-1717

After the singing of the Treaty of Utrecht, which established peace after Queen Anne's War, Teach moves to the uninhabited island of New Providence, within easy reach of major shipping lanes and home to pirates, traders and transients – a place where law and order are unheard of. Here, he meets renowned pirate Benjamin Hornigold and joins his crew, commandeering a sloop Hornigold had taken as a prize. Shortly after, the pair go on a pillaging rampage through the waters, capturing boats from Havana, Bermuda, Madeira and Virginia. Teach is recorded as a pirate in his own right.

Timeline

1680

Edward Teach is born
There's no firm record of Edward Teach's birth, but historians suspect it was likely around 1680, and that he was probably born in Bristol, an important international sea port at the time.
1680

Learning the ropes
Teach serves as a privateer during Queen Anne's War, a struggle between France and Britain for control of North America. This period of his life gives rise to the name of his ship, Queen Anne's Revenge.
1701-1714

A legend is born
The name 'Blackbeard' enters official records for the first time in a report to a British colonial council about Hornigold's operations.
Spring 1717

Going it alone
As his crew becomes disgruntled with the lack of pillaging, Benjamin Hornigold steps down as pirate captain and retires from piracy, leaving Blackbeard in charge. The pair never meet again.
Late 1717

The blockade of Charleston
Blackbeard strikes terror into the town of Charleston after blockading its wealthy port, plundering merchant ships and seizing passengers and crew of the Crowley. After his demands for medicinal supplies are met, he releases the hostages, without their valuables – or clothes.
May 1718

had capsized. Blackbeard granted a reprieve of two further days, but still the party did not return.

Yet the captain did not brutally execute his hostages, as threatened. Instead, he moved a number of his ships into the Charleston harbour, causing panic in the town. Eventually Marks returned with the medical supplies. It emerged that on his arrival to South Carolina's government offices the drugs had been provided swiftly, but the pirates he had travelled with had disappeared to go drinking with friends. They were finally discovered, drunk and entirely incapable of manning a boat back to Blackbeard. The pirate captain kept his word, though, and the ships and prisoners were released, albeit without their valuables.

However, while Blackbeard was to some extent an honourable man, he was still a pirate, and his willingness to double-cross others – his own men, in fact – was never clearer than in June 1718. His former captain and mentor Benjamin Hornigold had previously accepted a royal pardon, and it seems likely that around the time of the blockade of Charleston, Blackbeard had been considering seeking one, too. Pardons were regularly issued, with officials in England taking a rather relaxed view of piracy. For example, pirate Francis Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1581 when he returned from a round-the-world expedition with a booty of more than £1 million.

The pardon was open to all pirates who surrendered before 5 September 1718, but also stipulated that immunity was only assured on crimes committed before 5 January of that year. In theory, this would mean death for Blackbeard for his actions at Charleston. It was likely that this misdemeanour would be waived, but he was a smart man and wanted his safety to be assured.

Blackbeard wasn't the most successful pirate ever – Henry Avery once took a single ship worth more than Blackbeard took in his career

After discussing the matter with Bonnet, he sent his pirate companion and trusted friend to Bath Town to surrender. Bonnet received a full pardon and then travelled back to Blackbeard to collect his ship, the Revenge, and the remainder of his crew.

Upon his return, however, he found that Blackbeard had disappeared, having stripped the Revenge of its provisions and marooned its crew.

Blackbeard, without knowing the outcome of Bonnet's pardon, then sought his own from Governor Eden in June 1718, and settled in the town of Bath, where he took a wife and found work as a privateer – a burgeoning industry that was helpful in keeping restless former pirates occupied. But this was to be the beginning of the end for the legendary seaman.

While out on an expedition, he encountered Charles Vane, another English pirate, and he, Vane and a group of other notorious individuals, including Israel Hands, Robert Deal and Calico Jack, spent several drunken evenings together. This party of dangerous figures caused panic for local officials, in particular Governor Alexander Spotswood of Virginia, who had limited tolerance for piracy. The governor commissioned Lieutenant Robert Maynard to capture Blackbeard and his crew, offering a hefty incentive from the Assembly of Virginia.

But Blackbeard was outsmarted. Believing that Maynard had only a small crew with him, the pirates boarded Maynard's ship. No sooner had they set foot on the vessel than a veritable army came bursting forth from the ship's hold, shouting and firing, overpowering the pirates with superior training and weaponry. Blackbeard and Maynard fought head-to-head, and as Maynard drew back to fire at the pirate, Blackbeard advanced and was cut down by one of Maynard's men before being brutally attacked – and eventually killed – by Maynard's crew.

It was a grisly death for the legendary pirate, but he fought to the end: his body revealed at least five bullet wounds and 20 stab wounds suffered before he was brought down. His corpse was thrown overboard and his head hung from the bow of Maynard's ship – the final humiliation for a man who had for so long proudly dominated the seas.

Defining moment

Blackbeard gets his treasure
November 1717

On 28 November, Blackbeard's two ships attack French merchant vessel La Concorde transporting slaves off the coast of Saint Vincent, firing cannons across its bulwarks and forcing its captain to surrender. Blackbeard gives the crew of La Concorde the smaller of his two ships and renames La Concorde 'Queen Anne's Revenge'. He equips the ship with 40 guns, making it one of the world's most formidable pirate ships.

Defining moment

The beginning of the end
October 1718

Blackbeard parties at Ocracoke Island with a cohort that includes dubious characters Charles Vane, Israel Hands and 'Calico Jack' Rackham. The governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood, had issued a proclamation that all former pirates must make themselves known to the authorities, and not travel in groups larger than three. The governor orders a number of captains, including Lieutenant Robert Maynard, to capture Blackbeard.

Double cross
Queen Anne's Revenge runs aground, and while his partner Bonnet is away seeking a pardon from Governor Charles Eden, Blackbeard strips his ship of valuables and maroons Bonnet's men.
June 1718

A quiet life
Blackbeard seeks his pardon from the governor of Virginia, and finding kind hospitality from a town in need of an economic boost, decides to settle down in Bath and take a wife.
June 1718

Off the wagon
After months of relative peace and quiet, Blackbeard sails to St Thomas on a sloop he renames Adventure, seeking a commission as a privateer. He returns to piracy, and the governor of Pennsylvania issues a warrant for his arrest.
Summer 1718

The end of a golden age
Maynard tracks Blackbeard down, and the pirates open fire. Mistakenly believing they've won the battle, the pirates board Maynard's ship, but are quickly overpowered. Blackbeard is killed after a brutal fight.
November 1718

1719

Setting an example
Blackbeard's associates are tried in Williamsburg, Virginia. Records show that one is acquitted and one is pardoned, but the rest are hanged.
March 1719

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JAZZ
DANCING

Public enemy number one

AL CAPONE

Arriving in Chicago as a minor league mobster, Al Capone helped build an empire of prostitution, bootlegging and murder that made him a notorious household name

Written by James Hoare

The needle skipped as the gun barked twice in the killer's hand, the record player screeching into the silence of the restaurant's corridor as its owner crashed to the floor, blood pooling out onto the polished tiles.

Giacomo 'Big Jim' Colosimo, his body cooling from its exit wounds, had recently left his wife, filing for divorce and skipping town to marry a 19-year-old cabaret singer. His ex-wife, Victoria Moresco, or one of her brothers, was the prime suspect in this crime of passion, but the police knew enough to pay a visit to two of Colosimo's associates – the genial Johnny Torrio and his sidekick, the disquieting Alfonse Capone, three nasty scars on his cheek contorting as he smiled. "Big Jim and me were like brothers," claimed Torrio. "Mr Colosimo and me both loved opera", added Capone. "He was a grand guy."

Colosimo's murder on 11 May 1920 is still regarded as unsolved, but perhaps it's a crime that Chicago Police Department chose to leave that way. For nearly a decade Colosimo had ruled Chicago through hard graft and intimidation – running over 100 brothels with his wife – and extorting protection money from most of the city's illegal gambling dens, the profits snaking through the entire city, supplementing the meagre wages of the cop on the street corner and boosting the bank account of the city's two-time mayor, William 'Big Bill' Hale Thompson.

Chicago was a rough town. Booming in the early 1920s thanks to heavy industry and cheap labour, the Windy City was a Wild West frontier town with chimney stacks instead of cacti and bullet-riddled Model-T Fords in lieu of horses. "She was vibrant and violent," wrote local journalist Robert St John, "stimulating and ruthless, intolerant of smugness, impatient with those either physically or intellectually timid."

Capone had arrived in Chicago from New York in 1919 to work for his old friend Torrio, who had earned Colosimo's trust by chasing off a rival extortion racket and stuck around as the boss's second in command. Capone soon put the feared reputation he had enjoyed back home to work as a debt collector, seeing first hand how Colosimo's operation held a stranglehold over the underworld; gambling dens who refused to pay up for Big Jim's protection would either find themselves the subject of a convenient police raid or – worse still – a visit from Capone, who was more than happy to break a few legs and mess up a card table with a swing from his baseball bat.

Capone in New York

Born in 1898 in a run-down district of Brooklyn to Italian immigrants Gabriele and Teresina Capone, Al Capone's life of crime began early, brawling with street gangs and running errands for mobsters. One, a young rising star called Johnny Torrio, would loom larger in his life later on.

Capone soon found work with Frankie Yale (born Francesco Ioele), a vicious thug with links to Torrio. Working as a barman in Yale's bar, the Harvard Inn – a notorious haunt of prostitutes and gangsters – Capone got the vicious scars on his face when he leered at one mobster's sister "Honey, you got a nice ass and I mean that as a compliment, believe me." The furious Frank Galluccio called Capone out and slashed him three times across his cheek with a knife. He needed 30 stitches, but he was lucky the hoodlum had been drinking because Galluccio was aiming for his jugular. In the bar he also picked up syphilis, which eventually caused his death, but may have affected him even earlier. Neurosyphilis attacks the brain and the spinal column, and can cause violent mood swings, delusions and megalomania.

Capone learned his trade in 1910s New York

Johnny Torrio

Even after handing control over to Capone after he was shot Torrio was still involved in organised crime and became a close associate of Lucky Luciano and other mob bosses.

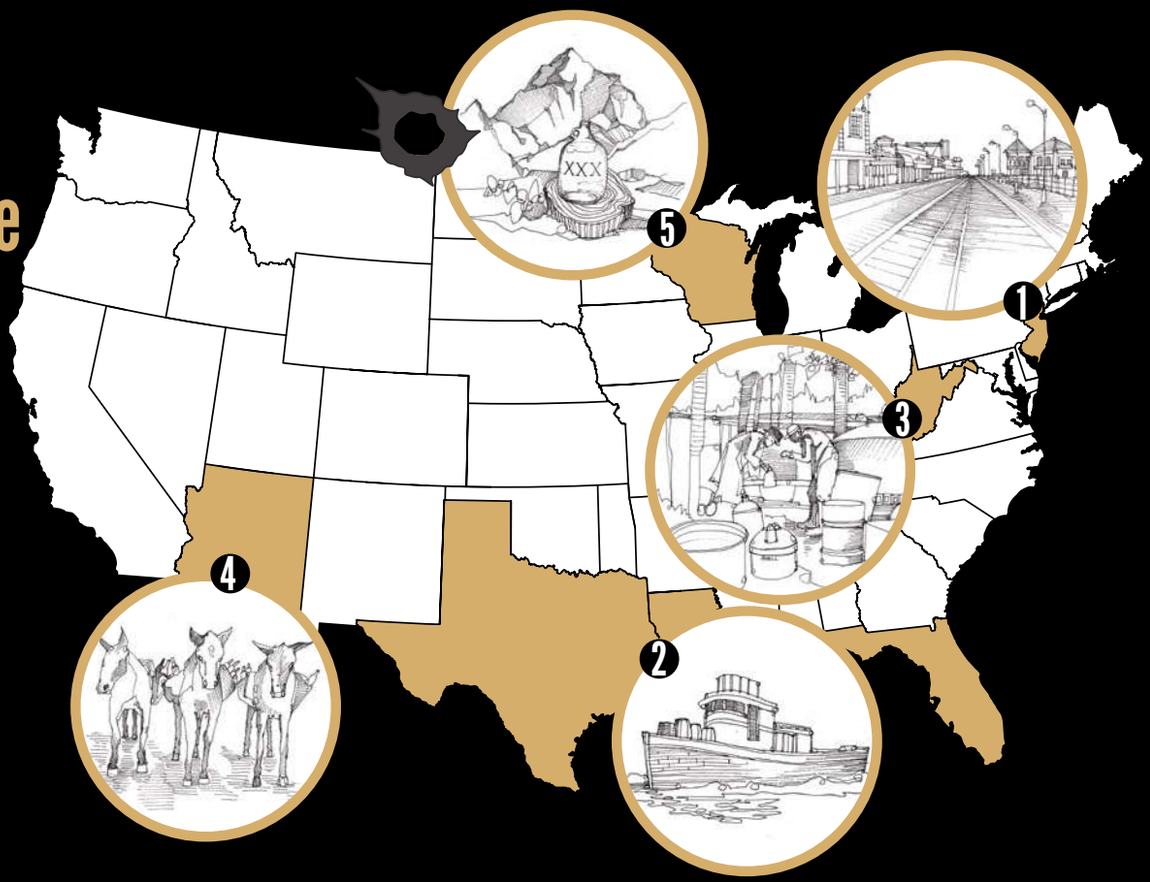
Compared to the claustrophobic Big Apple, where half a dozen gangs butted heads over a block at a time, Torrio and Capone found Chicago fertile for expansion, as the only thing that stood in their way was their own boss. In January 1920 the rules of the game changed again as the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution came into effect. Also known as the Volstead Act, which prohibited the production, transportation and sale of alcohol - but not the consumption - Prohibition meant a huge swathe of the population were suddenly transformed into potential customers. Torrio and Capone saw that this was a revenue stream with the potential to dwarf even prostitution and racketeering, but to their dismay Colosimo was having none of it. When Colosimo was conveniently removed from the picture, John 'The Fox' Torrio became the boss of the Chicago Outfit, and by his side stood Al Capone.

With Torrio's blessing, Capone set about covertly reopening breweries and distilleries that had been closed by the Volstead Act, setting up an ambitious distribution network to the city's mean speakeasies with the help of his older brothers Ralph and Frank Capone. "Nobody wanted Prohibition," he said. "This town voted six to one against it. Somebody had to throw some liquor on that thirst. Why not me?"

The loyal Ralph was put in charge of one of the Chicago Outfit's legal enterprises, a soft-drink bottling plant which earned him the nickname 'Bottles', while Frank honed a reputation for savagery that overshadowed even Al's. Estimated to have been responsible for 300 deaths, Frank infamously advised his little bother that, "you get no talk back from a corpse."

It was happening under Johnny Torrio's command but there was no doubt that bootlegging was Al Capone's kingdom, and he was soon to pay for it in blood as 1923 saw the downfall of Chicago's sticky fingered mayor, 'Big Bill' Thompson. The Democrat William Emmett Dever was voted in on a pledge to sweep the gangs

How America swam with booze



1. WHISKY ON THE BOARDWALK

Ships laden down with whisky from Canada would anchor off the coast of New Jersey, well beyond the maritime limit patrolled by the US Coast Guard. Smugglers would sail out to pick up the crates of booze and New Jersey's vast coastline became something of a free-for-all, with rival gangs hijacking each other's shipments. The hedonistic boardwalk resort of Atlantic City became the major gateway with the town's Irish-American racketeer Enoch 'Nucky' Johnson taking a major cut before it moved onward to Capone in Chicago or other mobs in New York and Jersey City.

2. RUM FROM THE CARIBBEAN

With Prohibition, Cuba emerged as a hedonistic getaway from the newly 'dry' US to the Bacardi-soaked Caribbean. Traffic flowed both ways, however, with 'rum runners' smuggling from Cuba, Jamaica and the Bahamas into South Florida, Texas and Louisiana.

In Texas, Galveston became the major entry point, supplying the rest of Texas and much of the Midwest. Dubbed the 'Free State of Galveston', brothers Sam and Rose Maceo ruled the local vice trade and successfully held off competition from Capone and New York boss Albert Anastasia.

3. A LAKE OF WHISKY

Although Ontario had its own temperance laws, they didn't ban distilling alcohol – leading to a flow of hooch across Lake Michigan and up the Detroit River from Windsor to Detroit. With illegally obtained papers saying their final destination was Venezuela, they would quietly off-load their cargo in Motor City instead. Detroit had been 'dry' well before Prohibition and the Purple Gang tightly controlled the rum-running trade and were major suppliers to Capone's Chicago Outfit.

4. MULES FROM MEXICO

Mass smuggling of US goods into Mexico was turned completely on its head thanks to Prohibition. Now home-made tequila and mescal was smuggled in the opposite direction by mule in groups of three or four, often crossing rivers at night, or by truck and car along dusty and isolated roads.

Texas's 1,300km (800mi) Mexican border was simply too wide be to adequately policed, and cat-and-mouse chases between the smugglers and Texas Rangers became the stuff of legend.

5. MOUNTAIN MOONSHINE

While champagne, gin, rum and whisky were available to those with the cash to cover its dangerous distribution, the poorer had to be taken care of too and moonshine cut the costs significantly.

Rural communities in the Appalachian Mountains and the Midwest had a tradition of home brew, but now a market opened up for their moonshine.

Stills could explode and quality control was poor and potentially life-threatening – but moonshiners often expanded their operations into barn-sized breweries.

from the city, and Torrio entrusted Capone with an urgent relocation to Cicero – the fourth largest city in Illinois – just outside of Chicago and the legislative reach of 'Decent Dever.' While Torrio and Capone had ruled their criminal empire largely as Colosimo had – with money in the right pockets and threats whispered in the right ears – the takeover of Cicero was an overt display of force, as Capone set about rigging the mayoral election for the mob's pet politician, Joseph Z Klenha.

On the eve of the 1924 mayoral election, Frank Capone burst into the office of the Democrat candidate for Cicero with some of his thugs, beating the hopeful to a pulp with their pistol butts, trashing his office and firing their revolvers into the ceiling as a preamble for the next day's audacious takeover. As cold, grey 1 April dawned, Capone hoods stormed into the polling stations to screen voters, snatching their ballot papers from them to ensure they were ticking the right box. Election officials with the stones to intervene were dealt with; a Democrat campaign worker was shot in the legs and dumped in a cellar, two other men were shot in the street and another had his throat cut.

Eventually, a desperate judge bussed in 70 Chicago police officers, deputised on the spot into the Cicero Police Department, to restore order. As the rain started to fall, Frank Capone found himself in a firefight outside a polling station. Opening fire on an approaching police car, he was gunned down by the startled cops, but it was too late – the town belonged to the Chicago Outfit. Frank got a funeral fit for war hero, with $20,000 worth of flowers placed around the silver plated coffin and over 150 cars in the motorcade.

Despite the appalling bloodshed in the takeover of Cicero, Al Capone had been something of an enigma to the press. However, as he got his hands dirtier and dirtier and frequently acted unstably – a possible consequences of syphilis contracted back in New York – his name was beginning to be heard outside of darkened back rooms where shady men made deals. A few weeks after Frank's body hit the pavement, small-time burglar 'Ragtime' Joe Howard was enjoying a drink in a bar, when two men

St Valentine's Day Massacre

A step by step account of the day when seven men were gunned down in cold blood

STEP 1

GIVING THE NOD

Mobster and boxer 'Machine Gun' Jack McGurn, a survivor of an attack by the rival North Side Gang, approaches Al Capone in his Miami winter home with a plan to take out the North Side leader, George Clarence 'Bugs' Moran and his lieutenants.

STEP 2

THE SET-UP

On 13 February 1929, McGurn has a booze hijacker approach Moran about selling him some top-end whisky for the bargain price of $57 a case, they arrange to meet in the morning. He adds the whisky is stolen from Detroit's Purple Gang – suppliers to Capone's mob.

STEP 3

THE LOOK-OUTS

McGurn stations lookouts – the brothers Harry and Phil Keywell, both members of the allied Purple Gang – in an apartment opposite Moran's headquarters, a nondescript garage behind the offices of SMC Cartage Company at 2122 North Clark Street.

STEP 4

THE TRAP CLOSES

On 14 February at 10.30am, the North Side Gang gather at their garage HQ, expecting a shipment of Old Log Cabin Whiskey. McGurn's scouts think they spot Moran arriving – it's Albert Weinshank, wearing the same-coloured coat and hat as his boss.

STEP 5

THE AMBUSH

Four gunmen in a stolen police car – two of them wearing police uniforms – burst in. Believing this to be a routine raid, the six members of the North Side Gang and two of their associates surrender and allow the 'policemen' to remove their weapons.

STEP 6

THE LUCKY ESCAPE

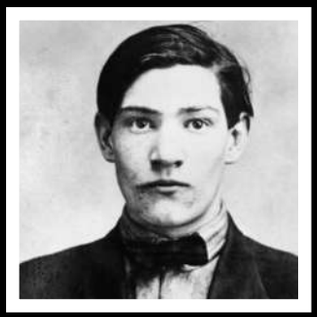
Moran and Ted Newberry arrive late through a side street in time to see the police car pull up and wait it out in a café. Spotting another mobster, Henry Gusenberg, they warn him off, while a fourth survivor also arrives late. He notes down the car's license plate and skedaddles.

Murder weapon

Fitted with either a 20-round box or the iconic 50-round circular drum, the Thompson Submachine Gun could fire between 800 and 900 rounds a minute, allowing its wielder to spray his enemy with the entire magazine in a matter of seconds. Though retailing for $200 at a time when a car cost $400, it used ubiquitous .45 ammunition and could be easily broken down for transport and reassembled in under a minute. Effective at a range up to 45 metres (150 feet), the Tommy gun was perfect for close-range firefights across streets and the marble counter of the speakeasy. It quickly became a cultural symbol of gangsters in the 1920s, so much that when the police started recruiting their 'G-men', they made sure to equip them with Tommy guns of their own.

Victims

Four unfortunate victims of the massacre



John May

Not a member of the North Side Gang, May was a mechanic who worked on their cars and occasionally as muscle. May was trying to stay out of trouble, but the demands of seven children left him with no other option but to take work from the mob.

Peter Gusenberg and Frank Gusenberg

Hitmen for the North Side Gang, the Gusenberg brothers entered the criminal underworld in their teens. They took part in a drive-by shooting of Capone's HQ in 1926 and killed two of his allies in 1928.

Adam Heyer

Moran's business manager and North Side Gang accountant, Heyer owned the lease on the gang's headquarters. Described as a snappy dresser, Heyer had been in prison twice – once for robbery and once for running a confidence game.

Police investigation

The hunt for the killers

Frank Gusenberg lived on for hours despite being riddled with wounds, but sticking stubbornly to the mob's code of silence he refused to admit he'd even been shot, let alone who'd done it, before he died. The Chicago Police Department quickly announced that they believed Capone associates John Scalise, Alberto Anselmi, Jack McGurn and Frank Rio were responsible, but the case floundered due to lack of evidence and McGurn skipped town with his moll.

In frustration, the police began its retaliation efforts by shaking down Detroit's Purple Gang on the basis that Moran's mob had recently been hijacking their liquor shipments. On 22 February, the burnt remains of the police Cadillac were found, but it was impossible to pin it on either Capone or the Purple Gang, while the two murder weapons later turned up in a police raid on the Michigan home of bank robber and hitman Fred 'Killer' Burke in November that same year.

Burke, who led a vicious gang that Capone called his "American boys", was finally arrested in March 1931, attempting to rob a bank in Kirksville, Missouri, and died in prison in 1940 from diabetes. Having killed a Michigan police officer, the Chicago police were unable to extradite him to Illinois and his role in the St Valentine's Day Massacre went unexamined.

Meanwhile in a completely unrelated case, the FBI had finally pinned down the ruthless Barker-Karpis gang of bank robbers and kidnappers, when one of their members – Byron 'Monty' Bolton – confessed to the St Valentine's Day Massacre and implicated Burke. Having no jurisdiction over the case, the FBI suppressed the information but it finally leaked to the press, adding to the already considerable confusion and the mystery of the entire case.

STEP 7

THE MASSACRE

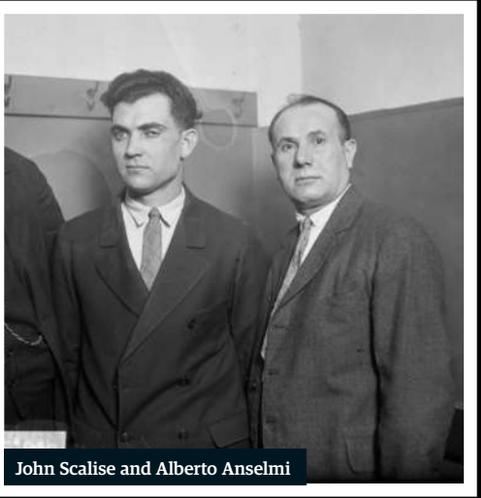
The two fake cops line the men up against a wall. Suddenly the two plain-clothes assassins open fire with Tommy guns while the others join in with a sawn-off shotgun and .45 handgun – spraying each man with at least ten bullets across their head and torso.

STEP 8

THE COVER-UP

The men in uniform lead the two plain-clothes assassins back to the police car with their hands raised, as if they'd been arrested. Neighbours, peering out of the windows, alerted by the rattle of gunfire, assume the villains have been apprehended.

Suspects Who might have pulled the trigger?



John Scalise and Alberto Anselmi

John Scalise and Alberto Anselmi

Capone's most feared hitmen, the Sicilian-born 'murder twins' were believed responsible for the death of North Side Gang boss – and Moran's predecessor – Dean O'Banion in 1924, as well as a failed attack on Moran and the murder of two police officers in June 1925. Both were sent to prison, but released a year later.

Frank Rio

One of Capone's most loyal and dependable bodyguards, Italian-born Rio had been arrested twice, once for handling stolen furs and once for the daylight robbery of a mail train but intimidation and bribery of judges helped him escape conviction, earning him the nickname 'Slippery' Frank Rio.

"His revolver levelled at Torrio's skull - the gun clicked on empty and the would-be assassins fled"

entered. Witnesses, who quickly forgot all the other details, recalled him say a friendly "Hello Al" before he was shot point blank – four rounds into his cheek and two into his shoulder. Nobody saw anything, nobody recognised the man, but the police knew who was responsible and so did the press, so for the first time, Capone's mugshot appeared on the front page.

In private, Capone's gang whispered that Howard had stuck up Jack 'Greasy Thumb' Guzik for $1,500, boasting he had "made the little Jew whine." Guzik was Capone's trusted money man, responsible for regular payoffs to cops and judges. Soon the name 'Scarface' began to stick, needling away at Capone's vanity – he never allowed the left side of his face to be photographed – and he began to lash out at the flickering flash bulbs of the photographers.

There were far more immediate threats than damning headlines, though. The predominantly Irish-American North Side Gang run by Dean O'Banion controlled the breweries and the bootlegging in Chicago's North Side and had resisted all of Torrio's efforts to bring them to heel. Alliances and truces had dwindled and fallen apart, but the last straw came on 19 May 1924 as O'Banion finally relinquished his share of the Sieben Brewery to Torrio. As soon as Torrio and his boys – joined by their allies in Little Sicily's 'Terrible Gennas' – showed up, a conveniently timed police raid swept in and the boss was left with a $5,000 fine and a nine-month jail sentence. "Deany was all right," smirked Capone, who took over the day-to-day running of the mob while Torrio served his sentence. "But like everyone else, his head got away from his hat."

One day while O'Banion clipped chrysanthemums in his flower shop, Schofields, Mike 'The Devil' Genna, John Scalise, Albert Anselmi and Frankie Yale strode in. As O'Banion and Yale shook hands, Scalise and Anselmi fired two bullets into his chest and two into his throat. As he lay on the floor in a pool of blood and petals, he was shot in the back of the head for good measure. He had been dealt with.

George Clarence 'Bugs' Moran took over the North Side Gang and nursed their grudge, moving the headquarters from Schofields to the garage that would become the site of the shocking St Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929, the culmination of a brutal and bloody five-year gang war between the Chicago Outfit and the North Side Gang.

Upon his release Torrio kept a low profile – safe in the knowledge that with Capone in the hot seat, he'd be less of a target. For all of the Fox's wiles, he just hadn't reckoned on how personal this war had become. Returning from a day shopping with his wife on the morning of 24 January 1925, gunfire lit up the street from a blue Cadillac lurking on the curb, shredding shopping bags to confetti. Blood mingled with the groceries from a litany of wounds as Johnny Torrio stared at the sky, the shrieking of Anna Torrio strangely distant. As Bugs Moran stood over him, blocking the crisp winter sun, his revolver levelled at Torrio's skull – the gun clicked on empty and the would-be assassins fled.

Capone's ascendancy was immediate as Torrio underwent emergency surgery. Capone slept by his mentor's bedside – the men of the Chicago Outfit standing guard around the clock, eying each disinterested nurse and flower-clutching day visitor suspiciously. "It's all yours, Al," said Torrio eventually. "Me? I'm quitting. It's Europe for me."

With the Fox quietly returning to Italy, Capone moved his headquarters into Chicago's luxurious Lexington Hotel, taking over the fourth and fifth floors where he held court

Victims of The St Valentine's Day Massacre

"Capone moved into his study where petitioners waited anxiously for favours and his patronage'"

Five facts about Scarface

- Capone's specially-outfitted, bulletproof Cadillac was seized by the US Treasury Department in 1932. It was later used by the government as President Franklin Roosevelt's limousine.
- Even though he is synonymous with Chicago, he only lived in the city for 12 years of his life.
- Allegedly, he had never heard of Eliot Ness, the government agent sent to bring him to justice.
- The man who helped America swim in booze during Prohibition's favourite drink was Templeton Rye whisky.
- His men carried out most of the deaths he is responsible for, but Capone is still thought to have killed more than a dozen men personally.

like an emperor, surrounded by mobsters and prostitutes. A concrete vault was installed in the basement and a secret staircase hidden behind a mirror in one of his bathrooms, just one part of a web of tunnels that would allow him a quick escape. Rising late most days, he took his time pouring over the morning papers like a statesman, before dressing himself in expensive finely tailored suits. Early afternoon, Capone moved into his study in another suite where petitioners waited anxiously for favours and his patronage. Nobody talked about the "Free Kingdom of Torrio" anymore. No, now the press called Cicero the "Capital of Caponeland."

Capone began to court newspaper men, handing out expensive cigars and inviting them to lavish parties, where the lord of the Chicago underworld played billiards with boxers, baseball players and the notoriously corrupt mayor of Chicago, Big Bill Thompson, miraculously re-elected in 1927. "Public service is my motto," Capone explained to attentive reporters in December 1927. "99 per cent of the public in [Chicago] drink and gamble and my offense has been to furnish them with those amusements. My booze has been good and my games on the square."

Already the public had some sympathy for the bootleggers and Capone took hold of the notion and twisted it into the spectre of Robin Hood, portraying himself as heroic outlaw giving the people what they wanted.

The bigger Capone's business became, the more intricate and vulnerable the network of mobsters, bribes and alliances required to sustain it. It got to a point where the endemic corruption of Chicago's law and government simply couldn't be ignored. In the wake of the shocking St Valentine's Day Massacre, Herbert Hoover was elected US president on an anti-corruption platform. His first move was to dispatch Prohibition agent Eliot Ness and a handpicked team of incorruptible 'Untouchables' to clean up Chicago's streets by raiding Capone's speakeasies and stills, and more importantly, it transpired, a team of IRS agents headed by accountant-turned-lawman Frank J Wilson with a mandate to turn over Capone's finances for something that would stick in court.

"Every time a boy falls off a tricycle, every time a black cat has gray kittens, every time someone stubs a toe, every time there's a murder or a fire or the Marines land in Nicaragua, the police and the

Capone with family and friends at a picnic, Chicago, 1929

Capone and Alcatraz

What was he sentenced for?

Capone was sentenced to 11 years for three counts of tax evasion (1927-9) and two counts of failing to provide tax returns (1928-9) as his lavish lifestyle and lack of legitimate income was used against him. 11 further counts of tax evasion and 5,000 violations of the Volstead Act were dropped out of fear the prosecution would be unable to get a conviction.

What was his defence?

Capone's legal team originally struck a deal with the prosecution to admit to the lighter charges and serve between two and five years so business would be able to go on as usual. However, when details leaked to the press the outrage was so great that the deal was immediately canned and the judge threw the book at him.

What happened at the trial?

The jury was suddenly exchanged for another in the court by Judge Wilkerson when the police learnt of a plot from Capone's mob to bribe them. The new jury, all from rural Illinois, were sequestered overnight to keep them out of the Chicago Outfit's reach. Wilkerson sentenced Capone to 11 years, $50,000 in fines, court costs of another $30,000 and no bail.

How was life for him in jail?

Initially, Capone served his sentence in Atlanta, Georgia, continuing to rule his crime empire by proxy, bribing guards with thousands of dollars hidden in the hollow handle of a tennis racket to be able to communicate with the outside world. He was then sent to the newly opened Alcatraz, where his link to the outside world was finally severed.

Was Alcatraz a 'hard' prison?

In Alcatraz, Capone's letters were censored, prohibited subjects and current events were removed, newspapers banned and all magazines had to be at least seven months old. He was only allowed visits from immediate family, who would be separated from the one-time king of crime by a sheet of glass.

Why was he released?

Capone was released into the care of his family on 16 November 1939 due to brain damage caused by neurosyphilis. By 1946, he was deemed to have the intelligence of a 12-year-old, suffering from delusional fits, raving about communists and plots to kill him. On 21 January 1947, Capone had a stroke and suffered a fatal heart attack on 25 January 1947, aged 48.

Alcatraz was a federal prison from 1933 until 1963

newspapers holler, 'Get Capone!'" raged Chicago's premier gangster in his penthouse. "I'm sick of it."

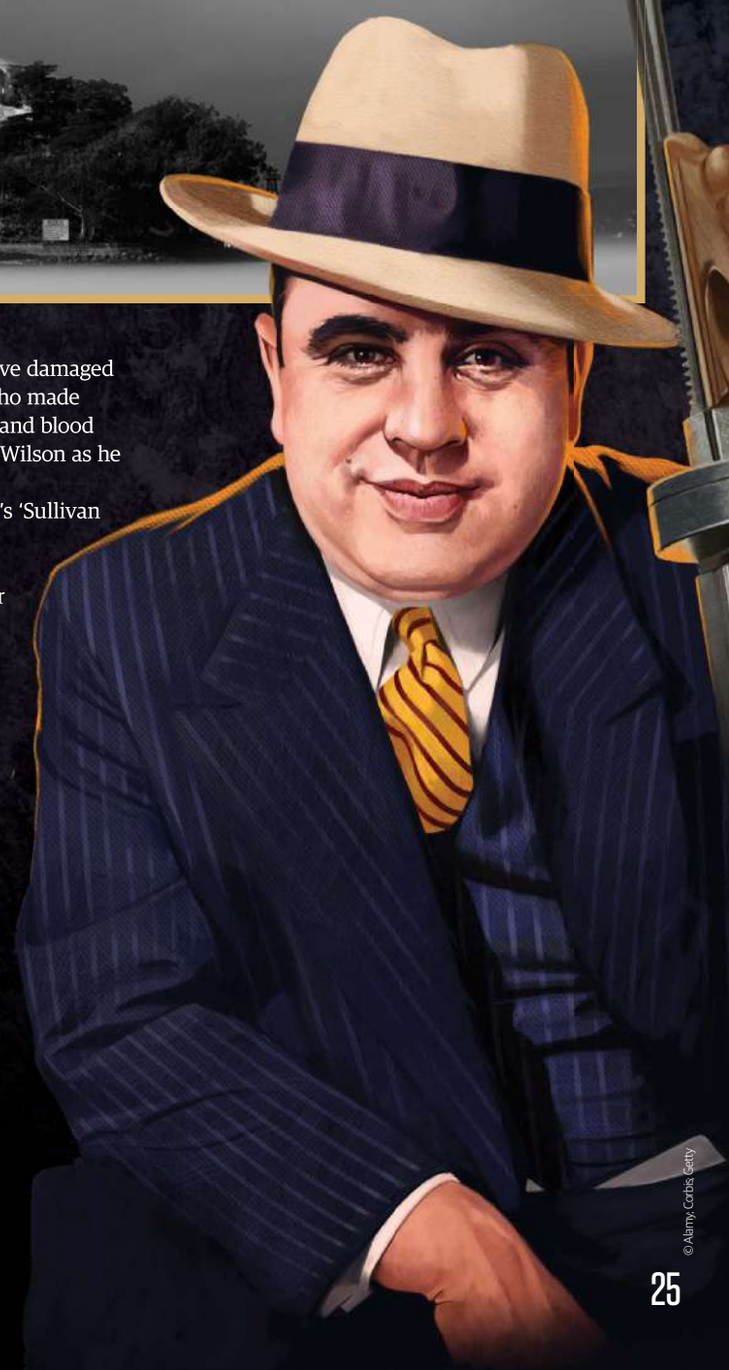
As the gangster was having a tantrum, one of the men tasked with bringing him to justice was having second thoughts. "Doubts raced through my mind as I considered the feasibility of enforcing a law which the majority of honest citizens didn't seem to want," Ness admitted in his autobiography. "I felt a chill foreboding for my men as I envisioned the violent reaction we would produce in the criminal octopus hovering over Chicago, its tentacles of terror reaching out all over the nation. We had undertaken what might be a suicidal mission."

While Capone wallowed in fine silks and syphilitic megalomania in his penthouse, Ness and his Untouchables began nipping at his heels – shutting down 18 stills and arresting 52 bootleggers in a single night. In the first six months alone, Ness' daring raids had cost the Chicago Outfit an estimated $1,000,000, as well as some of loyal lieutenants, who now languished in jail for violations of the Volstead Act. He shrugged off Capone's clumsy attempts at bribery, as well as two assassination attempts.

It was only ever an irritant, taking chunks out of his income and his pride – but to a mobster as egotistical as Capone, such defiance drove him into a rage. It was a fury Ness gleefully exploited – parading captured vehicles outside his hotel and taunting him on the phone. However much Ness might have damaged his ego, the real danger to the man who made the streets of Chicago swim in booze and blood came from fraud investigator Frank J Wilson as he poured over reams of paperwork.

In May 1927, the US Supreme Court's 'Sullivan decision' had reversed a bizarre legal loophole that meant gangsters were legally exempt from having to register illegal income on their tax returns, on the basis that it would violate their Fifth Amendment rights. Manly Sullivan, a Chicago bootlegger whose trial lent the decision its name, received a landmark conviction for tax evasion.

That same year, the Chicago Outfit's income was an estimated $108 million. Capone simply had to be next. Facing a possible 34-year jail term from Wilson's tax case and Ness's Prohibition case, the former would stick and the latter wouldn't, but that scarcely mattered. It was the end of Capone's empire of crime, brought down not by gunfire, violence and police raids, but by the simple, dry truth of the balance sheet. The reign of Chicago's public enemy number one was over.



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The Myths of Robin Hood

Hero, archer, lover, poacher, murderer, thief, vagabond... The story of Robin Hood has taken many forms through the ages, but is there any truth in the legend?

Written by Ben Biggs

Robin Hood; maybe you've heard of him? Medieval lovable rogue-type chap with green tights, good with arrows (and women), lives in a hideout in Sherwood Forest with a band of jolly outlaws where they fleece greedy travelling rich folk of their cash under the threat of violence, before sending them packing. His generosity to the downtrodden is renowned and he's loved by the common folk, hated by the wealthy and powerful and he's a devil with the ladies, if you know what we mean - especially high-born damsels trapped in their metaphorical towers (or actual towers, depending on the story). He doesn't see eye-to-eye with corrupt authority figures either but don't think that Robin Hood is anything but a loyal and patriotic Englishman: everything he does, he does for his country and the rightful king, Richard I of England, who's off fighting a noble crusade against evil heathens, thousands of miles away.

A depiction of a wedding between Robin Hood and a coy looking Maid Marian, presided over by King Richard I

MYTH ONE

THE FAIR MAIDEN

Who was Maid Marian and was there any truth in her legend? When did she first enter the stories?

Maid Marian is more a complete fabrication than an embellished character. As a love-match and soul mate to Robin Hood, she popped onto the scene sometime in the 16th century and was likely derived from a 15th-century character: the Lady of May Day. This popular festival was a yearly tradition in the Middle Ages but it took several generations of storytelling before Marian and Robin were brought together. In fact, the increased popularity of the story of Robin Hood was probably brought about by three plays that are known to have been written for the May Day festivities: *Robin Hood and the Sheriff*, *Robin Hood and the Friar* and *Robin Hood and the Potter*. It is small wonder really, that some bard would eventually pen a romance between the dashing rebel and the fictional May Day queen.

Robin Hood and his Merry Men: the original story has been sanitised by numerous generations

No one blindly believes the story of Robin Hood as we know it today, but long periods of English history have had a funny habit of recycling these tales until it's hard to tell fact from fiction, or what the original truth was – if it wasn't a complete fabrication to begin with. Like a giant, generational game of Chinese whispers, the legend of Robin Hood has been passed along the popular media of the times with a bit of embellishment added here, something considered dark, unflattering or politically unsavoury removed there. And so, via the 20th century's communication revolution, it has boomed into world fame. In the last few decades we've been adding our own tint to this rose-hued tale of the arrow-slinging rebel, like the stories of Russell Crowe's disaffected soldier, Kevin Costner's noble Prince of Thieves and Errol Flynn's jubilant swashbuckling rogue. If we're going to sort some fact from fiction here, we have to unravel the Hollywood-spun Batman of the Middle Ages back to where it began, sometime in the 12th century, and look at the direct origin of today's tale.

The legend himself, if not the tales, can be traced to the time of King John of England, who was born in 1166 and reigned from 1199 until his death in 1216. These ballads and stories were born and cultivated out of an era of social upheaval. The end of King John's reign saw the English barony revolt and the signing of the Magna Carta, which was the first step along a long road to the breakdown of the ancient feudal system of government. While characters like Maid Marian appeared in tales from a later date, some of Robin's band of 'Merry Men' can be clearly identified at this time, but things get a lot murkier when it comes to the titular hero.

According to one of the more recent theories backed by, among others, historian David Baldwin, Robin Hood's real identity was that of a 13th-century farmer called Robert Godberd, whose escapades were far from the sugar-coated tales we see today. The crimes him and his band of outlaws around Nottinghamshire and nearby counties were accused of were of the brutal era

MYTH TWO

Who were the Merry Men?

Where did they come from and what were the skills that made them an important member of Robin Hood's gang?

Little John

Character: Burly lieutenant
Special skill: Staff-swinging
He's one the first men to be recruited into Robin Hood's band in modern stories and he was one of the first mentioned in the ballads of yore, too. Little John was a loyal, intelligent and, of course, strong man in poet Andrew of Wyntoun's lore. He was the only one of the Merry Men supposed to be present when Robin died and he's thought to be buried in Derbyshire.

Will Scarlet

Character: Vain swordsman
Special skill: Wielding blades
There's been much confusion over William Scarlet's character and his plethora of names over the centuries, with one bard even including both a Scarlock and a Scarlet character in his work. He was still the youngest of the Merry Men in medieval versions of the Robin Hood story, but he liked to dress in finery and was also the most able swordsman, besting even Mr Hood himself.

Much the Miller's Son

Character: Wily boy
Special skill: Poaching
This sneaky character has fallen into obscurity in favour of other characters in modern adaptations of Robin Hood but Much, or Midge as he's also known, appears in the oldest of the known Robin Hood ballads. A poacher caught killing a deer on the Sheriff's land, he escaped punishment and became an outlaw in his gang.

Friar Tuck

Character: Drunken holy man
Special skill: Holding his drink
If the legend as it appears today is to be taken at face value, Friar Tuck is a boozy and wily character who still has his heart in the right place. His character is thought to derive from a certain 15th-century Robert Stafford from Sussex, and he entered the story of Robin Hood's exploits at the same time as Maid Marian did, during the May Day festivities in the 15th and 16th centuries.

"In the last few decades we've been adding our own tint to this rose-hued tale of the arrow-slinging rebel"

in which he lived: burglaries, arson, assaulting clergymen and murdering travellers. The nature of their law-breaking has slowly been eroded throughout history to suit an increasingly gentile audience, compared with a medieval population accustomed to violence and who found Godberg's activities entirely palatable. Godberg and his fellow brigands were in defiance of a tyrant who had an iron grip on the extensive forested regions of Nottinghamshire. King John enforced the enormously unpopular Forest Law, which allowed the royal court exclusive access to vast swathes of hunting grounds, with utter ruthlessness. Thus, morally speaking, Godberg's actions were justified by the common man as necessary for the greater good of the people.

There are a number of other recorded Robin Hood-type characters with similar names and lives that span a period of 150 years or so during this time. The earliest is Robert Hod of Cirencester, a serf who lived in the household of an abbot in Gloucestershire. He murdered a visiting dignitary early in the 13th century, fled with his accomplices and was subsequently outlawed by King John's reviled minister Gerard of Athee. Four other Robert Hods existed in 1265, at the Battle of Evesham during King Henry's time. Each became fugitives and outlaws for various reasons, including robbing travellers and raiding an abbey in Yorkshire, which could explain how the character of Friar Tuck eventually made his appearance in later tales. Later versions, namely two Robyn Hods, appeared respectively as an archer in a garrison on the Isle of Wight and as a man jailed for trespassing in the King's Forest and poaching deer in 1354. The name Robert was a common one around this time, while the surname Hod or Hode likely came from the old English word for a head covering. It's also possible his surname was derived from the story of 'Robin of the Wood'.

With the array of similar characters and names of people who existed at this time it's not surprising that historians have trouble pinning the character's origin on any one man. The earliest surviving ballads of the Robin Hood story don't even elaborate on his exploits: they make no mention of the troubles of the time, Robin Hood's cause or the years he was active, simply that he was an outlaw who lived in and around Sherwood or Barnsdale. To further confuse things, there are numerous accounts of outlaws in the 13th and 14th centuries adopting the name of Robin Hood and Little John, which suggests the story had achieved some popularity even then, although adopting the name of a famous outlaw – fictional or otherwise – was common among criminals at this time.

Robin Hood and his men capturing and tying the abbot of Saint Mary's to a tree

This Robin Hood had no spouse or family, no land and certainly no title. No reason is given for his criminality and his characteristics were likely drawn from some real-life outlaws of the time. One of the most telling aspects of these stories is the language they were written in: up until 1362, when Parliament decreed that English was to be used in court, French was widely spoken in the country – whereas even the earliest stories of Robin are in English, which helps establish a date.

By the 14th and 15th centuries, the tales of Robin Hood had gained some fame as they were disseminated in the traditional May Day festivities, while his story had begun to be written into plays and ballads. There's no mention of the folk hero living at the time of King John, but he can be found in the 15th-century stories of *Robin Hood and the Monk, The Lyttle Geste of Robyn Hode, Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne, Robin Hood and the Curtal Friar* and *Robin Hoode his Death.* The plays *Robin Hood and the Friar* and *Robin Hood and the Potter* were written specifically for the May Day Games in 1560 and were based on earlier ballads of the same name. During this period, his Merry Men began to accrete together from various sources as

"There are numerous accounts of outlaws in the 13th and 14th centuries adopting the name of Robin Hood and Little John"

Robin was embellished with details like so many layers of varnish. Word of the character had began to spread beyond the counties of the midlands and in the late-15th century, he is referred to in plays written as far afield as Somerset and Reading. He was well known even to the famous womanizing, warmongering king of England, Henry VIII, and his royal court. The young monarch's idea of celebrating May Day involved walking into Queen Catherine of Aragon's chambers with his nobles, "apparelled in short cotes of Kentish Kendal, with hodes on their heddes, and hosen of the same, every one of them his bowe and arrowes, and a sworde and a bucklar, like outlawes, or Robyn Hode's men," according to *Hall's Chronicle* by Edward Hall, a 16th-century scholar.

By the late-16th century, the Merry Men had acquired a friar, Robin had a love interest and he'd also gained nobility. Playwright Anthony Munday wrote two plays on the outlaw, *The Downfall of Robert Earl of Huntington* and *The Death of Robert Earl of Huntington*, in which Robin (Robert) has clearly been lofted into high society. Or at least, it was his position to lose: in the plays, Munday makes Robin an earl in the reign of Richard I who is disinherited by the king. Fleeing into the Greenwood, he is followed by the daughter of Robert Fitzwalter, one of the leading barons who rallied against the king, where they fall in love and she changes her name to Maid Marian. King John, angry that his would-be bride has been stolen from him by an outlaw, pursues her in the second play and poisons her at Dunmow Priory.

The idea that Robin was a fallen noble and some kind of love triangle existed between King John, Maid Marian and Robin still endures in some stories today. But by introducing a lover and giving him blue blood, the Robin Hood of the 16th century makes the transition from a brutal and often murderous outlaw in defiance of the monarchy to a more domesticated hero, a protagonist the ruling classes could admire and relate to – someone with just cause against an evil ruler. His status as an outlaw had been relegated to a trait that added an element of drama to the story, rather than one that defined it.

From the 16th century onward, with the advent of the printing press, the story of Robin Hood becomes more refined and much more familiar. Across the next few centuries, the character and the stories would pick up traits

Maid Marian being rescued by Robin Hood

MYTH THREE

The evil villain?

King John was a real person who raised taxes for Richard's foreign wars. Has history treated him unfairly?

King John was indeed a real person who lived at the same time Robin Hood was purported to be in and around Nottinghamshire, shaking up the status quo. By today's standards, he was a decadent, warmongering, self-serving tyrant who ruled over a turbulent period in British history. He is commonly regarded as a cruel king but the truth of it is that he was a leader of his generation. Him and his predecessors, the Angevin monarchs, operated with relative impunity under the authority of divine majesty: the king was above the law and could therefore do whatever pleased them. King John was a mercurial chap with a penchant for electing men outside the ranks of his barons to the royal court, favouring lesser nobles from the continent and spurning his own, powerful English nobles closer to home, whom he eyed suspiciously for signs of treachery. It was this, in part, that led to the signing of the Magna Carta, the seminal charter that led to constitutional law in England. His barons were sick of his arbitrary rule and insisted that, as a part of the Magna Carta, no free man could be punished by any other law than the law of the land. Of course, the Magna Carta never limited the king's powers in practice and King John only signed it to mollify his barons, but it remains the single most significant act of his reign. But this would have been lost on Robin Hood, the common serfs and farmers of these feudal times who as a general rule, would have feared the king and hated likes of his Forest Law, which would have been mercilessly enforced.

Robin Hood and Little John – two popular names adopted by rogues and criminals in the 13th century

MYTH FOUR

FRIEND OF THE POOR?

Was Robin Hood as generous as the tales depict him?

If Robin Hood and his Merry Men did exist in the time of King John, it's highly unlikely they would have embarked on the scale of philanthropy portrayed in the modern tale. This idea likely came from an early medieval ballad involving Richard at the Lee, a knight who had fallen upon hard times. His lands were to be forfeited to an abbot because he couldn't repay a loan to the abbey, so Robin gives him money to pay his mortgage. Historian John Paul Davis goes further as to suggest that Robin Hood stole from the rich and lent to the poor, as a kind of medieval loan shark. In his book *Robin Hood: The Unknown Templar*, Davis says that Hood loaned Richard a sum of £400, before stealing it back off the abbot once Richard has paid the abbey back. Victorian-era author Howard Pyle and 20th-century films undoubtedly had a big hand in transforming Hood from a devious bandit into the philanthropist he is today. So did someone named Robin Hood steal from the rich and give to the poor? It is possible, yes. Did he have their best interests at heart? That's as clear as the legend itself.

"16th-century Robin Hood makes the transition from a brutal and murderous outlaw in defiance of the monarchy"

and themes that generations to come would adopt when turning to their own adaptations. The 18th-century Robin Hood sees him encounter farcical situations. For example, the ballads of the time talk of a series of tradesmen and professionals getting the upper hand with the hapless outlaw, while the Sheriff of Nottingham is the only one to be bested by Robin. Robin dresses up as a friar in *Robin Hood's Golden Prize* and cheats two priests out of five hundred pounds – nearly $16,000 (£10,000) in today's money – before he's caught and summons the Merry Men with his horn.

The Victorians, notorious for enamelling history with their own style and values, weren't shy about leaving their mark on Robin Hood either. By the mid-19th century, the cost and efficiency of printing books was such that they had become available to the masses. US writer and illustrator Howard Pyle took the traditional folk tale of Robin Hood and adapted it to his own children's version, serialising it into short stories called *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, which became enormously popular. His green-tights vagabond was a moral philanthropist who would go on to spawn a whole century of the people's hero that took from the rich and gave to the poor.

By the time author TH White came along, the story of Robin Hood was among the world's most well known. White took it a step further and, as an author made famous by his Arthurian novels, brought Robin Hood and his Merry Men into his novel *The Sword In The Stone*, which was made into an anthropomorphic Disney film a quarter of a century later.

The late-20th century and the booming phenomenon that was cinema brought with it numerous adaptations, most of which aren't remotely faithful even to the 16th-century versions. The Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn film *Robin and Marian* made much of the romance but for the first time, cast King Richard as a less-than-benevolent character. The *Robin of Sherwood* television series went as far as to add a Muslim character in the form of Nasir the Saracen, a trend the famous Kevin Costner film followed through Morgan Freeman's Azeem.

The character of the lovable rogue has international appeal, so almost every country has its own version of Robin Hood: in Wales, Twm Siôn Cati is likened to Hood as a high-ranking highwayman driven to robbery as an income by his Protestant faith under a Catholic monarch. Ukranian rebel Ustym Karmaliuk made his name in the 19th century for robbing the rich and distributing the proceeds of his crimes to the poor, and over a millennium before Robin Hood came to the fore, Boudicca, queen of the Iceni, defied the Romans when they forcibly took control of her lands and people. She led a successful revolt that destroyed a Roman legion and the Roman capital before it was put down. Almost every generation has a story that is similar to Robin Hood, illustrating the very human desire and need to have a figure who stands for right against wrong, light against dark.

Given that nearly a millennium has passed since the first tale of Robin Hood was told, in addition to his murky origins that even 13th-century bards cannot agree on, it's unlikely any historian will be able to settle on who Robin Hood and his Merry Men were exactly, or what little truth there is to their deeds. As far as history is concerned, the Robin Hood legend has become a victim of its own popularity, obscured by generations of storytelling taking it firmly into the realms of fantasy.

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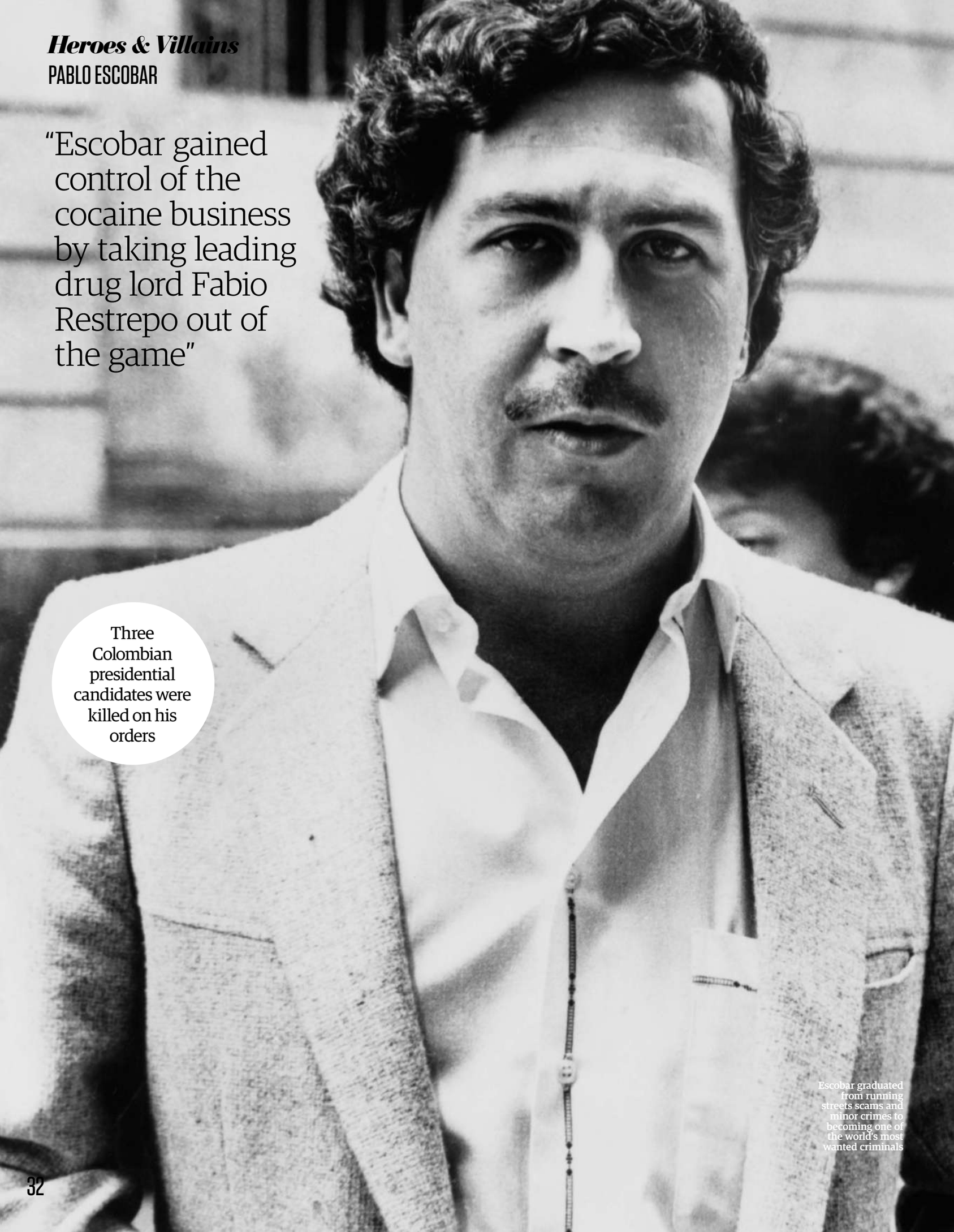
"Escobar gained control of the cocaine business by taking leading drug lord Fabio Restrepo out of the game"

Three Colombian presidential candidates were killed on his orders



Escobar graduated from running streets scams and minor crimes to becoming one of the world's most wanted criminals

Heroes & Villains

Pablo Escobar

The drug dealer who murdered anyone who stood in his way but was held up as a modern-day Robin Hood by large parts of the Colombian people

Written by David Hutt

On a hillside above Medellín, a neighbourhood of 12,000 people is affectionately called Barrio Pablo Escobar by its inhabitants. Built in the 1980s, the brick houses have plumbing, electricity and gardens, there are schools and hospitals, and for a decade no one had to pay a single peso in rent. All of this was funded by Pablo Escobar, Colombia's world-famous 'drug lord'. The King of Cocaine. The head of the Medellín Cartel. The billionaire. The murderer, tyrant and corrupter. The Colombian Robin Hood.

At the height of his powers, Escobar's Medellín Cartel controlled almost 80 per cent of the global cocaine trade and he was the seventh richest man in the world. His rule was ruthless and brutal. Opponents were murdered and police and politicians were bribed. His trademark strategy became known as 'plata o plomo' (cash or lead). You either took a bribe or you took a bullet. Yet Escobar was also a philanthropist. He gave back to the Colombian poor, a Robin Hood with a thick moustache and an AK-47. More than two decades after his death, some Colombians still say prayers for 'Don Pablo', while others give God their thanks that he is no longer around.

Born in 1949 in Envigado, a small city near Medellín, young Pablo grew up in poverty. Although not as destitute as other Colombians, daily necessities were hard to come by. In his teens, Escobar moved to Medellín where his criminal career started with petty scams and car thefts.

> At its peak Escobar's Medellín Cartel could make $60 million every single day

Legend has it that as a child Escobar declared that he would become a millionaire. He didn't disappoint. Moving up the ranks, he became a bodyguard for local gangsters and made a name for himself when he kidnapped a Medellín executive and earned $100,000 as a ransom. At this time the cocaine business was just emerging in Colombia, yet growing demand from the US led Escobar to believe big money was to be found in smuggling.

Escobar's operations started small. In 1975, at the age of 26, he began purchasing coca paste in Bolivia and then refining it in a two-storey house with his brother. Then he would hide the cocaine in old plane tyres and smuggle it into Panama, piloting a light aircraft he purchased for the task. Before long he was importing almost $500,000 worth of cocaine into Panama. The costs of this relatively small-scale smuggling were high, though. Bribing managers of airports could cost up to $300,000 for a round trip, which meant larger shipments were needed for big profits.

Mere months of starting out, Escobar gained control of the cocaine business in Medellín by taking leading drug lord Fabio Restrepo out of the game. Then with the three Ochoa brothers (Jorge Luis, Juan David and Fabio Jr) he formed an operation that would become the Medellín Cartel, although Escobar was firmly in control. That is why he was called 'El Padrino' – the 'Godfather.' With control of the city, Escobar's operations expanded rapidly and by 1978 the

Colombia has a long history of violence and instability

Life in the time of Pablo Escobar

'La Violencia'

Between 1948 and 1958, Colombia was ravaged by a civil war between the main political parties. Paramilitary and guerrilla forces loyal to each party fought one another, which led to between 200,000 to 300,000 deaths and more than a million people being displaced. The political stability that existed beforehand was eroded and many of the paramilitary and guerrilla groups formed during this decade continued to plague Colombia up until the 21st century.

Poverty

When Pablo Escobar was born, Colombia was a very poor country. Over half of the population lived in rural areas, less than half of children went to school and the life expectancy was below 50 years old. The majority of people lived in houses with earth floors and worked as agricultural labourers or peasant farmers. For many drug smuggling offered a way to riches not possible through legal avenues.

Cocaine is king

In 1859 German chemist Albert Niemann isolated the cocaine alkaloid from coca leaves, making it possible to produce the powdered drug that is known today. 55 years later, production and consumption was prohibited by international law, but this didn't affect demand. By the 1970s, Colombia became home to the largest and most sophisticated production and trafficking countries in the world and the price of cocaine on streets around the world fell considerably.

War on drugs

Since the 1960s the United States has spent trillions of dollars on their 'war on drugs.' In 2012, several presidents of Latin American countries met to state that the war had been a failure and created as many problems as it solved. This war still rages inside Colombia, although attention has recently shifted northward to Mexico, where cartels are disrupting politics and society much like Escobar did in the 1970s. The synthetic production of drugs such as 'crystal meth' means that cartels no longer have to produce their drugs in South America.

Since the 1960s armed conflict in Colombia has claimed over 300,000 lives

A country in crisis

For large parts of its history Colombia has been the scene of conflict and battles, from the 16th century when it came under Spanish rule to its war of independence, which resulted in the United States of Colombia in 1863, and then two years later the Republic of Colombia. In more recent times much if this conflict has not been with external forces, but internal, with competing ideologies and beliefs causing conflict and bloodshed. Known as La Violencia, a ten-year civil war occurred from 1948 to 1958 between the country's Conservative and Liberal parties and it is believed that at least 200,000 people lost their lives in this period.

In more modern times this internal conflict has continued and since the 1960s armed conflict in Colombia is thought to has taken the lives of almost 300,000 people. The government, aided by right-wing paramilitaries, have fought against left-wing guerrillas, such as The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army. These militants were frequently supported by the likes of Cuba, Soviet Union and neighbouring socialist countries. Among these warring factions, drug cartels have often changed allegiances when it suits. Escobar had close links with the guerrillas and collaborated with them to attack the government, until the guerrillas started smuggling cocaine. Colombia's four-way internal war still rages on today, although efforts have been made for ceasefires. Throughout this conflict, the country's poor have remained neglected and still have low standards of living.

"He would distribute food around the poor areas of Medellín and provide money to build houses, schools and hospitals"

Medellín Cartel was moving 35 kilograms (77 pounds) of cocaine out of Colombia each month. As the 1970s gave way to the 1980s, the price of cocaine in the US fell and the expanding customer base for benzoylmethylecgonine – the molecular formula for the addictive white powder – increased demand. Escobar stepped up the supply. To do so he created a highly sophisticated network of corrupt politicians, police officers and other officials that allowed him to import large quantities of coca leaves from Bolivia and Peru, turn it into cocaine in Colombia and Venezuela, smuggle it into Central America or the Caribbean and then into the United States. At all levels of Colombian society, money from Escobar's operations lined the pockets of officials, whether they liked it or not. Within a decade of setting out, Escobar's small-scale operation had turned into an international enterprise that made up to $60 million every single day.

The Medellín Cartel had two submarines, which were used to smuggle cocaine into the US

Escobar become so powerful in part by realising early in his criminal career that there were two ways to earn power: admiration and fear. In the cutthroat world of drug smuggling, it is survival of the fittest. Aspiring traffickers were killed. Those in his organisation who stepped out of line were beaten and tortured and the drug kingpin cultivated an image of a man all too willing to use violence. It is said that Escobar was responsible for between 4,000 and 5,000 deaths. Still, he rarely got his own hands dirty – he paid assassins to do that. He once callously stated: "Sometimes I am God, if I say a man dies, he dies that same day." His rise to power also cost the lives of three presidential candidates, 30 judges, dozens of journalists and 400 policemen. Regardless of your position in society, if you made an enemy of Escobar, you'd end up looking down the barrel of a gun.

Yet Escobar was smart enough to know fear was not enough – many gangsters were feared, but had met an early death all the same. He also had to win the hearts of the Colombian people, which he tried to do through charity. In 1989, *Forbes Magazine* estimated that he was the seventh-richest man in the world with a net worth of almost $3 billion. He bought multi-million dollar apartments, luxury cars and other trappings of wealth, but also saw that his money was directed into the neighbourhoods where he came from. He would distribute food around the poor areas of Medellín and provide money to build houses, schools, hospitals, churches, parks and football teams. His 'generosity' bought him loyalty from those who had nothing. In an impoverished Colombia it is not hard to see why Escobar was seen by some as a noble bandit. Throughout the 20th century it was a country of great inequality of wealth, corruption and political violence. Rich politicians used the poor to do their fighting but never shared the profits. Escobar was in direct conflict with the establishment; many ordinary Colombians chose to overlook his violent ruthlessness and saw 'Don Pablo' as one of their own who had 'made it.'

However, critics of Escobar say his philanthropy was merely sensible business, keeping the poor on his side for personal and business security. To propagate his image as a 'friend of the people', he even started his own newspaper, which featured sympathetic articles about Escobar and scathing attacks on those trying to bring him to justice. Furthermore, his murderous connections also accounted for about 20 deaths of ordinary Colombians per day. While his hero-of-the-people

Defining moment

The drug business
1975

Escobar makes his first trip to Bolivia and returns with $30 worth of coca paste. He refines it in a small house in Medellín and smuggles his first load of cocaine into Panama, Chile, in a plane he flies himself. The drugs are hidden in the aircraft in old plane tires. After this successful first run, he returns to Bolivia to purchase higher quantities of coca paste and refines more cocaine in Colombia.

Timeline

1949

Escobar is born
Pablo Escobar is born to farmer Dari and elementary school teacher Hermilda. He is the third of nine children and the family is poor, with daily necessities hard to come by. Like many in Colombia, life is difficult. When he is 12 years old he is sent to live in Medellín with his extended family.
1 December 1949

The Medellín Cartel
After killing Fabio Restrepo, a rival drug lord, Escobar informs Restrepo's men that they are now working for him. He then forms what will become known as the Medellín Cartel.
1975

Marriage material
Escobar marries Maria Victoria, who is only 15 years old. Together they have two children.
12 March 1976

The politician
Escobar becomes an alternate member of the Colombian Chamber of Representatives for the Colombian Liberal Party. He campaigns against extradition laws to the United States, for fairly obvious reasons.
1982

Money and power
Escobar is at the peak of his powers during the mid-1980s. A staggering 11 tons of cocaine are transported to the USA per flight by his dominant criminal organisation.
1985

The drug lord's excesses included his own private zoo – here officials remove some of his hippos after Escobar's death

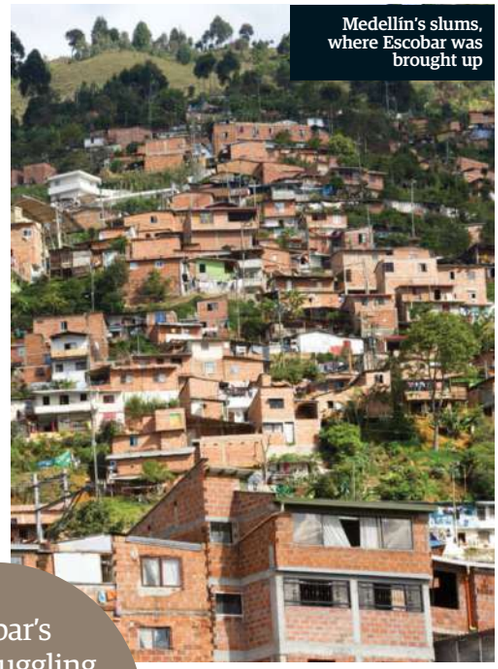

Medellín's slums, where Escobar was brought up

image held sway for some, it certainly didn't convince everyone.

An estimated 500,000 people were directly or indirectly dependent in his underground economy, but not all went freely into his employ. The families of peasant workers were threatened with death if they did not produce the expected quantities of cocaine and few could choose to leave their job. Politicians and police officers who refused to accept Escobar's bribes faced possible assassination. In 1989, presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galán declared himself an enemy of drug cartels. On Escobar's orders Galán was shot dead and he tried to kill his successor, Cesar Gaviria. A bomb exploded on an aeroplane killing 107 people, but Gaviria, the target, was not on board. The following year, Gaviria became president and under his control Escobar's brutal reign of terror would come to an end.

By the early-1990s, Escobar had become internationally renowned but also internationally wanted. The US had been attempting to extradite him for many years, something Escobar was fearful of. He tried – and failed – to change Colombia's extradition laws; first with a short-lived career in politics and then with an offer to pay off Colombia's foreign debt – a staggering $13 billion. In 1991 he finally made an agreement with the government: he would serve a five-year prison sentence with the promise he wouldn't be extradited. The government agreed.

Escobar's drug-smuggling operation was said to have employed almost 500,000 people

They also agreed that Escobar could build his own prison – one with Jacuzzis, football pitches and bars – choose his own guards, be the only prisoner there and be able to continue business by telephone.

The government eventually said enough was enough when it emerged that Escobar was using the prison to torture disloyal associates, and decided to transfer him to a regular prison. Fearing extradition, he fled and went into hiding.

In response the government created Search Bloc, a 2,000-strong special operations unit within the police force, whose sole purpose was to find Escobar. Trained in the United States, this unit searched almost 15,000 houses before finding his hideout in a Medellín 'barrio' called Olivos on 2 December 1993. Fleeing across rooftops, Escobar was shot three times, in the leg, torso and head. According to his brothers, the bullet that killed Escobar came from his own gun. This is possible, as Escobar once said in an interview, "I'd rather be in a grave in Colombia than in prison in the United States." The next day the headline of *La Prensa*, Colombia's national newspaper, read: 'Immortal joy, Colombia between relief and delirium.' The brutal drug lord of Colombia was no more.

Defining moment

Seventh-richest man in the world
10 July 1989

Forbes Magazine lists Escobar as the seventh-richest man in the world with a net worth of almost $3 billion. His wealth is so fantastically big, it is said that each year, rats eat almost ten per cent of his hidden cash. Furthermore, Escobar's brother Robert estimates that the cartel spend almost $2,500 each month just on rubber bands to hold the money together. Escobar rubs shoulders with some of South America's most influential and powerful figures, such as the Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Presidential candidate assassination
On Escobar's orders, presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galán is assassinated while delivering a campaign speech. Galán had openly declared himself an enemy of drug cartels and corruption in Colombia.
18 August 1989

Prison break
Escobar, fearing extradition to the USA, flees the prison he built for himself and goes into hiding. A special unit of the Colombian police force, Search Bloc, is set up with the sole purpose of finding him.
22 July 1992

1993

Defining moment

Escobar is killed
2 December 1993

Escobar is found by the Search Bloc in a Medellín 'barrio' and chased across rooftops. Three gunshot wounds bring down the 'King of Cocaine.' After his death, his wife and two children relocate to Argentina where they continue to live under new identities. His son, Sebastián Marroquín, later stars in a documentary called *Sins Of My Father*, in which he meets with the children of those Escobar had killed, to ask for forgiveness.

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Heroes & Villains

Ned Kelly

The outlaw whose stand against injustice and corruption made him an Australian folk hero

Written by Jerry Glover

In his brief life, Edward 'Ned' Kelly was one of the last bushrangers, runaway convicts who lived in the Australian outback robbing to survive. With bushranging flourishing in his time, he could easily have been just another desperado in the annals of crime. Yet his radical actions and controversial motives – as well as a home-made suit of armour – made him equally celebrated as a hero against injustice and reviled as a vengeful killer.

Two events in 1866 when he was ten showed Ned Kelly's strong sense of identity and proclivity for leadership. Shortly after finishing a sentence of six months' hard labour, his Irish-born father, John 'Red' Kelly, died at Avenel in southeast Victoria and the young Ned completed his death certificate. Ned described a nation that had "destroyed, massacred and murdered" his Irish forefathers, and transported them to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) "to pine away in starvation and misery among tyrants worse than the promised hell itself." That year he also rescued a boy from drowning, for which he was rewarded with a green and gold sash, symbolic of Ireland, the country his father was born in. The sash came to represent to him a symbol of how unfairly immigrants were treated. He would wear the sash underneath his armour on the fateful day he was finally taken in for good, guns blazing.

> Ned's armour weighed 44kg (97lb) and during his final shoot-out the helmet resisted five bullets

In a land without roads, rail or telegraph and with the law administration stretched thin over hundreds of miles, a capable horseman could go anywhere and do pretty much anything he pleased. During the late-1860s a charismatic middle-aged thief, Harry Power, became his crime mentor and fellow horse thief. In March 1870 Power was arrested for robbery, but with the witnesses unable to positively identify Ned as an accomplice to the stick-up he escaped arrest. The police believed he was guilty, but the lack of direct evidence meant the authorities could do little. Twice more he evaded implication in Power's crimes, but his luck eventually ran dry after an altercation with Jeremiah McCormack, who was feuding with one of his friends. His first prison sentence was six months' hard labour, the same punishment that had all-but killed his father.

Barely a month after leaving prison, Ned blundered into more trouble while doing a good deed. Returning home on a stolen mare he'd recovered, he ran across Constable Hall who knew the mare was stolen property. In the scuffle to apprehend Ned – during which he rode Hall like a horse, sticking him with spurs to make him drop his gun – Hall tried to shoot Ned, later claiming he had been goaded. For his part, Ned said Hall attempted to shoot before he even tried to arrest him, only failing when his Colt revolver jammed. The constable testified that he beat Ned's head with the revolver, leaving "a mass of raw and bleeding flesh" as a group of men bound him with ropes. Ned claimed Hall bribed a main witness, James Murdoch, to incriminate him. It made no difference. On 2 August 1871 Ned began three years' imprisonment with hard labour. "It is a credit to a policeman to convict an innocent man, but any mutt can pot a guilty one", he later wrote. "There never was such a thing as justice in English laws." The prison photograph betrays little of the bitterness he felt; more a calm determination and an aloofness by averting his eyes from the camera. When he returned home in February 1874, six months early for good behaviour, he declared, "I would rather face the gallows than go to gaol again".

With his younger brother Dan and new stepfather George King, Ned resumed stealing horses. In 1876 and 1877, the gang stole over 200 horses, crudely rebranding them with an iron hoop and recolouring the hair with iodine. Their plans worked, until a trivial misdemeanour on Ned's part – another possible frame-up – started an escalating chain of events. Charged with drunkenly riding a horse across a footpath, Ned fought with police leading him to court, addressing Constable Thomas Lonigan

Ned at Pentridge Prison, then only aged 16

Life in the time of Ned Kelly

Rise of the squattocracy

Squatters took unoccupied Crown land for grazing livestock. After provisions allowing leased squatting from 1836, they became a wealthy and important 'squattocracy', able to influence authorities into ignoring their killing of Aboriginals occupying 'their' land. Ned Kelly admitted stealing 280 horses from James Whitty, a prominent squatter in Victoria.

Gold fever

In 1823, the government concealed the discovery of Australia's gold, fearing destabilisation. With the secret out by January 1851, prospectors flocked to Victoria, causing turmoil that shaped immigration policy in favour of Europeans. Victoria's population grew sevenfold, but by the late-1860s, gold production slumped because of the difficulty of mining at ever-greater depths.

Outback outlaws

The Victorian gold rush caused an epidemic of outlaw bushrangers to rob goldfields and banks for wealth that was easily transported and converted into cash. Their heyday was from the 1860s until improvements in rail, police efficiency and the telegraph by the 1880s made bushranging harder. Some 2,000 bushrangers had lived and died, many shot or hanged.

The Eureka Rebellion

Anger over mining fees for Victorian gold miners not democratically represented peaked in 1854. On 3 December that year the most disaffected miners swore allegiance to the Eureka Flag (or Southern Cross) in a stockade on Bakery Hill, Ballarat, before clashes with soldiers killed and wounded dozens. Legal reforms reflecting most of the miner's demands followed.

Banged up

When Ned's family and sympathisers were incarcerated in prisons such as Pentridge and Beechworth, their buildings were models of the Panopticon, a wheel-like structure with a central tower from which wardens could observe all prisoners. Prisoners wore masks in the exercise yard to hide their identities and used numbers instead of names when speaking to wardens.

Ned's skeleton was disinterred in 1929, but his skull disappeared until 1952, when it was found in a safe

At one point the bounty on the Kelly gang was £8,000 – an extraordinary sum of money in the late 1800s

"Two police teams closed in on the Kelly Gang, but upon hearing a police gunshot aimed at parrots at Stringybark Creek, the gang found the police camp first"

with the legendary oath, "I never shot a man yet, but if I ever do, so help me God, you'll be the first!"

These words would prove prophetic. On 15 April 1878 a scuffle erupted between Dan Kelly and Constable Alexander Fitzpatrick, who appeared at Kelly's house with an arrest warrant for Ned. Fitzpatrick was wounded and his account that Dan resisted arrest and Ned shot him in the wrist was accepted by trial authorities. Ellen Kelly, who denied her son Ned was present, was sentenced to three years with hard labour. Bill Skillion and Bill 'Bricky' Williamson, neighbours who were there, were sentenced to six years each for assisting in the attempted murder of a police officer.

Sworn to avenge these perceived injustices, Ned and Dan absconded into the Wombat Ranges. To raise money for a lawyer for their mother, they and two friends, Steve Hart and Joe Byrne, established a whisky still, cleared 20 acres (eight hectares) to grow barley, and dug for gold. On 25 October 1878 two police teams closed in on the Kelly Gang, but upon hearing a police gunshot aimed at parrots at Stringybark Creek, the gang found the police camp first. Ned fatally shot Constable Lonigan in the temple and Constable Scanlon was also shot dead. As Constable McIntyre escaped on horseback, Constable Kennedy exchanged gunfire until he ran out of bullets. Ned shot him through the heart and took his gold watch. McIntyre returned with more police early the next morning to find the dead officers peppered with extra shots: a message that all members of the gang shared mutual responsibility.

With the rewards on their heads raised to £500 each, dead or alive, the gang changed tactics to raise funds for Ellen Kelly's cause. Led by Ned, they smoothly executed a nonviolent bank robbery in Euroa on 10 December 1878 and another one disguised as police in Jerilderie two months later. Between these events, Ned dictated a statement, arguing that police persecution forced him to become outlaw, and

More books have been written about Ned Kelly than any other Australian

Ned Kelly's family home, where he was born, in Beveridge, Victoria in Australia

Defining moment

The Fitzpatrick incident
15 April 1878

Constable Alexander Fitzpatrick appears at Kelly's house with a warrant, intending to arrest Ned by himself in disobeyance of his orders and police policy. After a drunken pass at Ned's sister, a scuffle erupts with Dan Kelly and Fitzpatrick is wounded. Fitzpatrick's report to his superiors that Dan resisted arrest and that Ned shot him in the wrist is accepted by the authorities. Ned's mother, Ellen Kelly, who denies Ned was present, is sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Ned and Dan abscond into the Wombat Ranges, sworn fugitives set on avenging these injustices. The government offers £100 for the capture of each.

Timeline

1854 or 1855

Birth of an outlaw
Ned is born to Ellen and John 'Red' Kelly, a gold digger, in Beveridge, north of Melbourne. One of eight Kelly siblings, Ned attends a Church of England school and becomes very keen on horses.
June 1854 or 1855

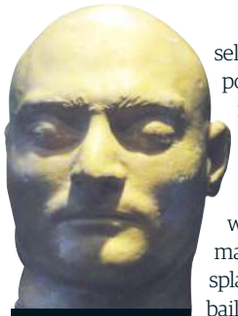
First brush with the law
Chinese gold digger, Ah Fook, accuses Ned of assaulting and robbing him. Complications with interpreting Fook force the dismissal of the first recorded charges against Ned, only 14 years of age at the time.
15 October 1869

Lucky escapes
Ned is twice charged for stick-up robberies with bushranger Harry Power. After spending a month in lock-up in Richmond he is released due to lack of evidence. Power gets a ten-year sentence.
16 March 1870

Hard labour
Ned receives six months' hard labour for assaulting the McCormacks. Three weeks after release, a policeman tries to shoot Ned, who overpowers him. He earns three years hard labour.
October 1870

Bare-knuckle boxer
To settle a dispute over a mare, Ned fights a bare-knuckle boxing match with Isaiah 'Wild' Wright. Ned wins the fight after 20 rounds and commissions a photograph of himself in a pugilistic stance.
8 August 1874

First notoriety
Kelly is fined for damaging police uniforms while resisting arrest by Constable Lonigan. With brother Dan and stepfather George King, Ned begins cattle rustling the following month.
September 1877


Ned's death mask on public display

self-defence caused the three police deaths ("I have never interfered with any person unless they deserved it"). Condemning law officers as "big, ugly, fat-necked, wombat-headed, big-bellied, magpie-legged, narrow-hipped, splawfooted sons of Irish bailiffs or English landlords", he appealed for justice for other poor Irish families in Victoria, claiming they should receive a share of land squatters' assets, and calling for a republic of North East Victoria. The outlaw read the letter to 60 townspeople in a Jerilderie hotel after the bank job and the press ran synopses of the manifesto.

The gang stayed in the bush for 16 months, not fleeing across the border as they might have, but remaining steadfast to their cause. In April 1880 they employed Joe Grigg to blacksmith four suits of iron armour from stolen ploughshares. On 26 June 1880, one of Kelly's gang members, Joe Byrne, called on police informer Aaron Sherritt in Sebastopol, shooting him dead. By tragic irony, the gang's outlaw status and arrest warrants expired the following day. This freed Byrne and Hart and the Kelly brothers' outstanding warrants were only for the attempted murder of Fitzpatrick, but not Sherritt's murder. What happened next indicates the gang knew nothing of this change in their legal situation.

The gang captured the railway station at Glenrowan on 27 June 1880, imprisoned the local constable, cut the telegraph wires and directed the dismantling of a railway section to derail police reinforcements. Ned's plan was to capture the troopers, exchange them for prisoners including his mother Ellen, and declare the region the Republic of North East Victoria. At daybreak, some 50 police duly arrived by train, surrounding the Glenrowan Inn beside the station, where 35 hostages were held. In an intense gunfight, Joe Byrne was shot in the leg and Ned was shot in the foot, right thumb and arm before exclaiming, "you bloody cocktails can't hurt me, I'm in iron!" before disappearing outside. Gunfire continued intermittently throughout the day and night. After the hostages were released, the siege finally ended when the police set fire to the hotel to smoke out the gang. As Joe Byrne left the hotel he was fatally shot, before a fully armoured Ned reappeared from behind the troopers. He lurched toward them as bullets uselessly struck his armour but shots to his unprotected legs eventually brought him down. Ned was riddled with 28 bullet wounds – but alive, unlike the rest of his gang. Underneath the iron armour he was wearing the green sash presented to him as a boy.

Ned was tried for four murders and a host of lesser offences in Melbourne on 28 to 30 October 1880. The judge, Redmond Barry, had sentenced his mother to prison two years earlier, arguably doing more than anyone else to precipitate the gang's rampage. Before the verdict was heard, Ned spoke passionately: "If my lips teach the public that men are made mad by bad treatment, and if the police are taught that they may exasperate to madness men they persecute and ill-treat, my life will not be entirely thrown away." Ned Kelly was convicted of the murder of Constable Lonigan. "I will return from the grave to fight," he boldly declared, but despite a petition of around 30,000 signatures to spare his life, the luck of Australia's ironclad folk hero had finally run out.

Ned's remains were buried in consecrated ground near his mother's grave on 20 January 2013

Port Arthur in Tasmania was a penal colony in the 19th century

Deported from England

With the 'Bloody Code' of 222 crimes eligible for the death penalty by the late-18th century, a punishment many judges considered too harsh, and with prisons full to bursting mostly with minor felons, Britain started deporting criminals to Australia in 1787. The First Fleet's arrival in Sydney to establish Australia as a penal colony is now celebrated as National Australia Day, 26 January.

Van Diemen's Land (modern-day Tasmania) was settled as a penal colony in 1824. It was where Ned's father, John 'Red' Kelly, was transported from Tipperary in 1841. His crime: stealing two pigs. It wasn't unusual for petty crimes such as this to lead to deportation. Most convicts were employed in public works gangs for building infrastructure and prisons, and after a period were freed to live and work within set areas. The 'ticket of leave' system was introduced in 1853, allowing prisoners of good behaviour who had served a specific term freedoms such as the ability to seek employment, send for their families, or to marry.

The perceived threat to the livelihoods of free settlers by convicts, stoked by newspapers' fear mongering, led to the creation of a league lobbying for the end of transportation. When transportation ceased in 1868, over 165,000 British convicts had been resettled in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand.

Stringybark Creek, where one of Ned's confrontations with police took place

Defining moment

Pleas for clemency
December 1878 - February 1879

Ned writes to justify his actions in the context of his family's persecution. Signed "Ned Kelly, a forced outlaw", his letter passes to Donald Cameron, a parliamentarian critical of the police hunt. Ned expands on this in 'The Jerilderie Letter', coruscating the police for their corruption. Detailing the events at Stringybark Creek, the police murders are portrayed as self-defence actions. Ned threatens "all those who have reason to fear me" with consequences "worse than the rust in the wheat in Victoria or the druth of a dry season to the grasshoppers in New South Wales."

- **Beyond the law**
  Several groups of troopers start hunting the Kelly Gang when they are declared legal outlaws, enabling capture or shooting dead by anyone at any time. The reward is £2,000 for all four men.
  25 October 1878
- **Murder at Stringybark**
  With the gang and troopers stalking each other in the Wombat Ranges, the gang surprise a camp of four disguised officers. In the subsequent commotion Ned shoots Constables Lonigan, Kennedy and Scanlon.
  25 October 1878
- **Desperate measures**
  In Jerilderie, the Kelly Gang lock the policemen in their cells and detain 60 townspeople in the Royal Mail Hotel while they rob the bank. The reward rises to £2,000 per man, dead or alive.
  8-11 February 1879

- **Final showdown**
  Ned and the gang lay siege to Glenrowan. Two hostages and two gang members are killed in shoot-outs with police at the Glenrowan Inn. Ned is disabled by Sergeant Steele and subsequently captured.
  27-29 June 1880

1880

- **Execution**
  Ned is tried and convicted for one murder and sentenced to death at Melbourne Gaol. His last words are either "I suppose it has come to this" or "Such is life."
  11 November 1880

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The Hunt for Jack the Ripper

History's most infamous serial killer stalks the streets and the police hunt for him grows more desperate with every gruesome murder

Written by Robin Brown

August 31st 1888. The East End of London is not unaccustomed to violence or murders, but on Buck's Row lies a body that has been mutilated beyond even Whitechapel's reputation for depravity. Her throat cut and abdomen gashed, Mary Ann Nichols, known to friends as Polly, has become the first unwitting victim of the modern era's most notorious serial killer.

Polly Nichols is widely considered the Ripper's first victim and shares a similar profile to most of his later victims. Estranged from her husband and children, Nichols has worked the dark and narrow streets of Whitechapel for most of the decade. Known for her love of drink and with a turbulent personal history behind her, Polly has been in and out of London's workhouses, where the destitute are offered food and shelter in return for unskilled work, for over five years, ever since her husband ceased maintenance payments on the grounds that his wife has been working as a prostitute.

Despite finding a job working as a domestic servant during the spring of 1888, Nichols resumes her itinerant lifestyle and lives in a series of workhouses and lodging houses over the summer. On 31 August 1888, Polly has made her daily lodgings money three times over but has drunk away most of her profits, so she must go out to work again if she is to have a roof over her head for the night. She is last seen in The Frying Pan public house before heading out into the night again – minutes later her body is discovered on Buck's Row. Her throat has been cut and her abdomen slashed open. It will later be discovered in the mortuary that Polly Nichols' body has been eviscerated too.

Even before the Ripper's reign of terror, the East

YARD

London 1888

London was booming in 1888, swollen by the Industrial Revolution and Britain's place as the heart of an empire on which the Sun never set. The capital was a vast financial and mercantile centre – the promise of work attracting migrants from all over the world. Yet frequently those with few skills or prospects found only grinding poverty and the harsh reality of life in the slums of the East End.

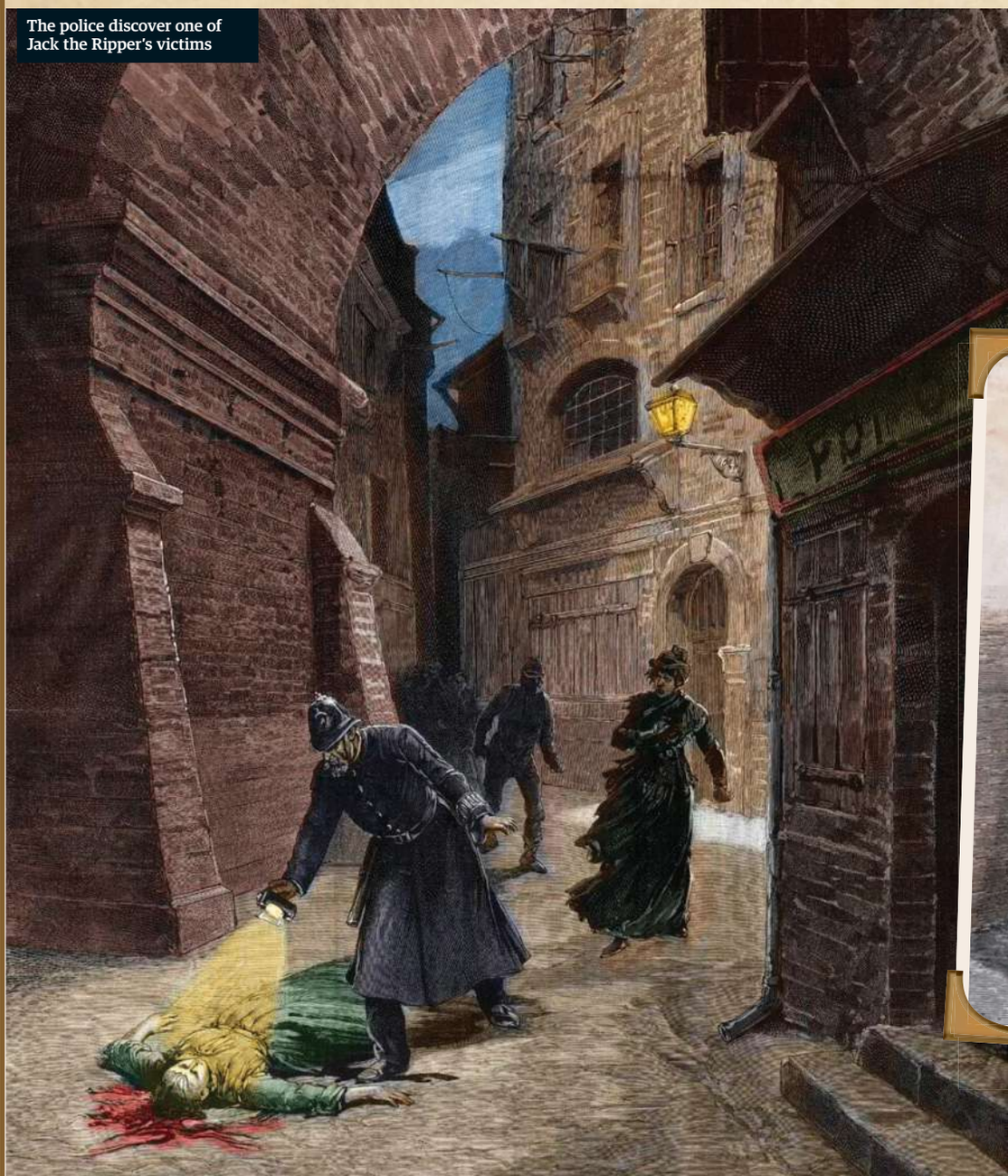
These people were packed together in numbers and population density inconceivable today, particularly in the notorious Whitechapel, where 90,000 lived together in lodging houses filled with up to 80 people each: Ashkenazi Jews fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe mixed with Irish escaping the potato famine. Some found employment in the slaughterhouses that peppered the area, but for many women the only assets they had to sell were their own bodies – turning them to drink in the gin houses to escape the bleakness of their situation.

Doss houses were frequently the only lodgings many could find, with 20 people packed tightly into rooms. Conditions were appalling, particularly in hot summers. In colder months the smoke from London's chimneys would combine with fog from the Thames to create notorious peasoupers – thick, noxious smog that would mask the weak light of the cobbled streets' gaslights. The East End of London became a breeding ground for squalor, racism, violence, alcoholism and prostitution – a heady mix that birthed history's most notorious serial killer.

End was a hotbed of violence, particularly toward women. While the police will later exclude them from the so-called canonical murders – the five murders considered to be have been perpetrated by the Ripper – two women working as prostitutes have already been killed in 1888. Emma Smith and Martha Tabram were both violently murdered and mutilated that year, but with such events relatively commonplace there is little concern among the capital's police force. This will soon change.

A burly, mustachioed man, Frederick Abberline knows the streets of Whitechapel well, having worked in the Metropolitan Police force's H Division as a local inspector for almost ten years before receiving a promotion to inspector first-class at Scotland Yard in February 1888. With the resources of H Division seen as stretched and the seriousness of the Nichols murder recognised at the highest levels, Abberline is seconded back to Whitechapel to oversee the investigation into the murders due to his excellent knowledge of the area's geography, criminals and way of life. While he reminds one colleague of a bank manager or solicitor, nobody doubts Abberline's suitability for the job – he is considered fair and meticulous. With increasing numbers of detectives and divisions involved in investigating the murders, Abberline becomes the most-recognised policeman connected to the Ripper murders, conducting interviews, viewing identity parades and hearing testimonies first-hand. Many high-ranking officials from Scotland Yard would compile their own theories based on Abberline's reports.

However, the police have a difficult task on their hands. The victims' profession is an unwitting assistance to the Ripper. They lead him to the shadows, where they are unlikely to be disturbed: the perfect way to commit murder in the crowded Whitechapel. With an estimated 90,000 people crammed into little more than 2.6 square kilometres (1.5 square miles) – and an estimated 1,200 women working as prostitutes at any one time – policing Whitechapel is a near-impossible job. This is made even harder by



The police discover one of Jack the Ripper's victims

"Even before the Ripper's reign of terror, the East End was a hotbed of violence, particularly toward women"

Victorian methods of policing, which dictate that beat constables must check in on their rounds on time or face their pay being docked: a quixotic rule that leads to some constables turning a blind eye to crime in order to check in on time. By 19 September, Abberline is forced to conclude that, "not the slightest clue can at present be obtained", as to Nichols' killer.

Just a week after the murder of Nichols, the Ripper strikes again. On 8 September 1888, the body of Annie Chapman is discovered in the yard of 29 Hanbury Street. Her throat has been cut, but the mutilations are even more horrific. Chapman's body has been disembowelled and the intestines strung over her shoulder; part of Chapman's womb has been removed. Alongside Chapman's meagre possessions there is a leather apron found nearby.

Newspapers quickly latch on to the two murders – many of the so-called penny dreadfuls would publish two editions a day, distributed on the streets by young boys crying 'ghastly murder!' – and the leather apron is seen as vital evidence by the press. A man colloquially known as 'Leather Apron,' John Pizer, is reported to have been seen with Chapman shortly before her murder. Pizer had previously attacked a man with a knife and sexually assaulted a prostitute the previous summer, which doesn't help his cause. Just as importantly – given the rampant suspicion of Jews in the East End – Pizer is Jewish, spurring the press on to hysterical anti-Semitism.

The East London Observer describes Pizer as having a face "not altogether pleasant to look upon, by reason of the grizzly black strips of hair" and possessing "thin lips" with "a cruel sardonic kind of look". However, Pizer is quickly discounted as a suspect when it is discovered he has an alibi for both murders.

Over the course of the investigation, more than 2,000 people are interviewed in connection to the murders, with a focus on slaughtermen, butchers and those in the medical profession, due to the initial belief that the murderer must have some anatomical knowledge. With thousands of accusations every week, Abberline and H Division is stretched to breaking point. Public dissatisfaction with the investigation leads to the formation of a vigilante group, The Whitechapel Vigilance Committee. Frustrated with the police's performance, the committee starts its own patrols, paying men a small wage to patrol the streets from midnight to the early hours of the morning.

Without some of the most basic forensic science that crime-fighters will take for granted in the 20th century – fingerprinting is yet to be introduced and photography is limited by the cumbersome, expensive nature of the equipment – Abberline struggles to make any headway. The policeman would walk the streets until the early hours searching for clues and would often give unfortunates fourpence for a night's doss to get them off the streets. At one point H Division has 1,600 reports to wade through and the strain on Abberline nearly breaks him.

The police are deluged with letters – most of them overwhelmingly certain fakes – and information they do not trust. However, physical profiles built from claimed witness reports, in contradiction to the romanticised image of the Ripper, suggest a white man in his twenties or thirties with a moustache and dressed shabbily or as a tradesman or sailor. A criminal profile by police surgeon Dr Thomas Bond suggests a quiet, eccentric man without anatomical knowledge and driven by sexual mania to kill: "The murderer must have been a man of physical strength and of great coolness and daring. There is no evidence that he had an accomplice. He must in my opinion be a man subject to periodical attacks of homicidal and erotic mania. The character of the mutilations indicate that the man may be in a condition sexually, that may be called satyriasis."

Jack the Ripper has become one of the world's most famous bogeymen

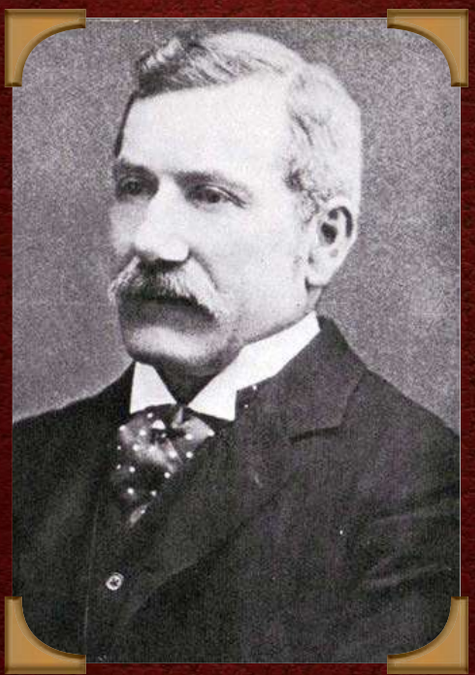
CSI Whitechapel

Frustrated by the lack of progress following the 'double event' murders of Liz Stride and Cathy Eddowes, the police turned to Dr Thomas Bond, a surgeon for the Metropolitan Police, to shed some light on the forensics of the crime scenes and victims.

Bond used evidence from the crime scene, such as arterial bloody spray on walls and post-mortem reports, to conclude that the murderer likely wore a cape or other clothing to hide the fact that his hands and arms would be covered in blood, writing, "parts of his clothing must certainly have been smeared with blood."

The surgeon also concluded the killer had little or no anatomical knowledge, but that the object of the murders was the mutilation of the bodies. From this theory – and the physical evidence – he deduced that the perpetrator was the same man. Bond's concluding notes form what is thought to be the first criminal profile – a physical and psychological portrait drawn from the perpetrator's crimes. He believed the Ripper was possessed of "physical strength and of great coolness and daring", but prone to violent and sexual instincts.

Bond believed the Ripper to be a "quiet, inoffensive looking man" in middle age and neatly dressed. The surgeon added the murderer would also be solitary and eccentric with a small income. An FBI report, written in 1988, came to many of the same conclusions as Bond's original profile.



Jack's victims?

Martha Tabram

Separated from her husband and with a reputation for excessive drinking, Martha Tabram was destitute by August 1888 and making a living from prostitution. Her body was discovered with 39 stab wounds but she had not been further mutilated. Tabram is not generally considered an official 'canonical' victim of the Ripper.

Polly Nichols

Estranged from her husband and children, Polly Nichols had been in and out of workhouses for over five years by the time of her death. She had earned enough money for a bed on the night of her murder but spent the money on alcohol, forcing her back onto the streets.

Annie Chapman

Known as Dark Annie due to either her hair or her black moods, 47-year-old Chapman had fallen on hard times following the death of her husband, birth of a handicapped child and the death of another. Although she had previously sold flowers and relied on an allowance from her husband, his death forced her into prostitution to support herself financially.

Liz Stride

Known as Long Liz, possibly due to her surname or appearance, Stride was a Swedish immigrant given to flights of fancy and worked as a prostitute on the streets of Whitechapel. Some Ripperologists question whether Stride was a Ripper victim as her body was not mutilated; others suggest that the killer was interrupted.

Cathy Eddowes

The second victim in the so-called 'double event' on 30 September, the 46-year-old Eddowes was known as an intelligent, striking and jolly woman who had moved to London from Wolverhampton. There's some doubt as to whether Eddowes worked as a prostitute, though she was seen talking to a stranger minutes before her death.

Mary Jane Kelly

The last of the canonical murders, Kelly did not quite fit the established profile. While working as a prostitute, Kelly had her own lodgings and, at 25, was much younger than the other victims. Her murder was by far the most brutal, resulting in her body being removed not by stretcher, but in eight buckets.

Map of East London
4
4. Berner Street
30 September 1888
Liz Stride is discovered with her throat cut on Sunday 30 September. The lack of mutilation has led to doubts whether Stride should be considered a canonical victim.
1. George Yard
7 September 1888
Martha Tabram was killed on 7 August 1888; suffering 39 stab wounds. The savagery of the murder, location and date led police to link Tabram's murder with the Ripper murders.
St Paul's
2. Buck's Row
31 August 1888
Polly Nichols is slashed across the throat and mutilated on 31 August. She is officially considered the first victim of Jack the Ripper.
1
2
6. Dorset Street
9 November 1888
Mary Jane Kelly's body is found eviscerated and mutilated beyond recognition in her single-room flat at 13 Miller's Court off Dorset Street.
6

Victorians make much of sexual dysfunction and many who end up in lunatic asylums are committed there for activities that would not raise an eyebrow today. Nevertheless, while Ripper victims show no signs of sexual assault, most believe that there is a sexual element to the murders, given the way the corpses are posed and the genital mutilations that most display. Abberline is suspicious of Jacob Isenschmid and at one point declares him to be the most likely suspect, not a great leap, as he is given to bouts of insanity and is known as the 'Mad Pork Butcher.' He is arrested on 12 September and subsequently committed to the Bow, an infirmary asylum. Several weeks pass following Chapman's death and the hysteria following her death begins to die down. The East End allows itself to hope that the worst has passed before it is struck with a horrific double killing in the early hours of 30 September.

Like Nichols and Chapman, Liz Stride – known as Long Liz to friends – has worked as a prostitute but had previously run a coffee house with her husband, who had died in 1884. At that time, Stride is working as a charlady and making some money sewing, while occasionally receiving money from her on-off partner, Michael Kidney. Days before her murder, Dr Thomas Barnardo, who had opened one of his first charity homes to care for vulnerable children in 1870, claims to have seen Stride in a lodging house in Whitechapel among a group of women who opine that they might soon be murdered by the Ripper.

Stride is found with her throat cut in Berner Street on 30 September. Of the canonical five, Stride's murder is considered the most dubious due to the lack of trademark mutilations, leading to speculation that the murderer is interrupted shortly after killing Stride, or even that her murder

LONDON
3
3. HANBURY STREET
8 September 1888
Annie Chapman is discovered on Saturday 8 September 1888, with her throat cut and internal organs partially removed. She is considered the second official Ripper victim.
WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LIMEHOUSE
5. MITRE SQUARE
30 September 1888
Less than an hour after Stride's body is discovered, Cathy Eddowes is found disembowelled and with her throat cut open.
COMMERCIAL ROAD
5
THE THAMES
N
S

is committed by someone other than the Ripper, perhaps a would-be copycat. This theory is given further credence when the body of Cathy Eddowes is discovered in Mitre Square 45 minutes later.

The killing of Stride is significant in that it features one of the most convincing eyewitness description, given by a man named Israel Schwartz. His account suggests that he saw the Ripper attack Stride before becoming aware that he was observed, shouting "Lipski!" before Schwartz escapes. The police suggest the colloquial term, used to refer to Jews at this time, is essayed to an accomplice standing nearby, who makes it towards Schwartz himself. This theory leads the police to initially conclude that their suspects are Jewish. However, Abberline is of the opinion that the term is aimed in a derogatory manner at Schwartz himself, given his Yiddish features. Such is Abberline's standing in the investigation that this take on the account is adopted without question, discounting the popular theory that the Ripper was Jewish and working with Jewish accomplices.

Eddowes is not known to work routinely as a prostitute and is in a relationship at the time of her death. She is given to heavy drinking, however, and on the night of her death is taken to Bishopsgate Police Station and locked in a cell until sober. At around 1am, she is released and turns to walk in the opposite direction to her lodging house – in less than an hour she will be dead. Unlike Stride, Eddowes' body has been horrifically mutilated. Having cut her throat, the killer also disembowels his unfortunate victim, removing part of her kidneys and uterus. The corpse's eyes have also been removed, as well as the tip of her nose and an earlobe.

The removal of the kidney is significant. Scotland Yard and H Division are deluged with thousands of letters a week from the public, pointing the finger at possible suspects. What's more, the press claim that a number of letters, purporting to be from the Ripper, have been sent to their offices. Of these letters, only one is believed to be potentially genuine. Sent to George Lusk, head of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee, two weeks later, it contains a piece of kidney that is purportedly from Eddowes' body. The letter is thought to be significant as the kidney is reported to show signs of Bright's Disease, which Eddowes is known to have suffered from. The writer of the letter – marked as being written 'From Hell' – claims to have eaten the missing kidney half and threatens to send Lusk the bloody knife used in the murder.

Of the many letters received by police, only two others are given any credence. The first is sent to the *Central News Agency* on 25 September and begins with 'Dear Boss' and is signed 'Jack The Ripper,' the first use of this moniker. It goes on to threaten to send the police the ears of the next victim, but while Eddowes' ear has been cut, the pathologist suggests that this was coincidental to the Ripper slashing her throat.

The next, received on 1 October, is signed 'Saucy Jacky' and references the 'double event' of the murders of Stride and Eddowes. Although initially given credence due to the apparent foretelling of the murders, the postcard is actually postmarked after the event. Both are widely thought to be hoaxes written after the event, with police even suspecting unscrupulous journalists keen to keep the story alive. The police put constables into plain clothes to blend in with Whitechapel's locals and copies of the letters purporting to be from the Ripper are posted throughout the area in the vain hope that someone will recognise the handwriting in them.

However, Abberline has another problem – the climate of fear and hysteria breeds xenophobia, which finds an outlet in persecution of the local Jewish population. Near to where Eddowes was found is a message scrawled on a wall, implying Jews are responsible for the murders. Five weeks pass without another murder, with an increased police presence and public vigilance at a high on the streets of Whitechapel.

Mary Jane Kelly, unlike the other murder victims who were all in their forties, is 25 years old and rents a private room. She works as a prostitute

"The writer of the letter – marked as being written 'From Hell' – claims to have eaten the missing kidney half"

Suspects

Francis Tumblety

Profession Herbalist, con man

Was he the Ripper?

An American quack doctor, Tumblety supposedly owned sets of reproductive organs in jars and was thought to be flamboyant – and thus homosexual. While such scant evidence was sufficient for Ripper accusations in the 19th century, Tumblety's extreme misogyny and criminal behaviour led to one investigating officer naming him as his favoured suspect, while a forensic analyst deemed his handwriting bore a similarity to the Ripper letters.

Sir William Gull

Profession Doctor, Queen's physician

Was he the Ripper?

Alan Moore's seminal graphic novel *From Hell* suggests that Gull was the Ripper, wiping out a group of women who learned of an illegitimate Catholic heir to the throne fathered by Prince Albert Victor. The Queen's surgeon, most famously played by Ian Holm in a film adaptation, is portrayed either as a diligent professional, thoroughly insane or acting as an agent of higher powers, both corporeal and divine. None are taken seriously.

Walter Sickert

Profession Artist

Was he the Ripper?

Famed for his avant-garde paintings, Sickert was open about his interest in Ripperology. After his death, Sickert was accused of being an accomplice – or even committing the murders himself – in various books, including one by crime novelist Patricia Cornwell, who claims to have matched Sickert's DNA to one of the Ripper letters. The theory is widely dismissed.

"The mutilation is so extensive that Dr Bond believes the murderer would have been at work for at least two hours"

and has a fondness for drink, having ended up in London by way of Ireland and Wales, according to various reports. On the morning of 9 November, Kelly's landlord dispatches a lackey to collect the six weeks of rent she owes. He finds only Kelly's body, horribly eviscerated beyond recognition in her flat. Over the fire is a kettle, the solder on which has melted. Abberline surmises that the killer burned Kelly's clothes – which are missing – to provide light in which to carry out his macabre work. The mutilation is so extensive that Dr Bond believes the murderer would have been at work for at least two hours. Kelly's organs have been removed from her chest and abdominal cavities, her face destroyed and heart missing.

The brutality of the killing reignites fear across Whitechapel, so Scotland Yard announces a pardon for anyone with information leading to the arrest of the Ripper. However, at the height of his notoriety, the Ripper disappears. Just as quickly as his reign of terror on the East End began, it ends. While there are superficially similar murders in 1889 and 1891, it is not believed the same man committed them. The investigation slowly winds down but the Ripper lives on in the public's consciousness. The Whitechapel murders have also galvanised politicians into acting to improve the parlous state of the East End's slums, many of which are cleared over the following decades. Abberline moves back to Scotland Yard, receives a promotion to the rank of chief inspector and retires in 1892.

While opinion of the identity of the Ripper may be divided, most experts believe that only incarceration, removal from Whitechapel or death would have prevented the Ripper from killing again; having been forced to kill from some sort of compulsion he would have been unable to resist had he remained in the area and at liberty. In 1894 Metropolitan Police Chief Constable Melville Macnaghten publishes a report that names three suspects – John Druitt, Aaron Kosminski and Michael Ostrog – as three likely candidates. However, factual inaccuracies blight the report, while Ostrog was likely imprisoned in France at the time of the murders. Macnaghten's report is indicative of the lack of sound factual bases behind many Ripper accusations.

As for the man in charge of the investigation at the time, Abberline's favoured candidate was Seweryn Antonowicz Kłosowski, also known as George Chapman, a Polish immigrant hanged in 1903 for murdering three of his mistresses. Chapman worked as butcher, was known to be paranoid and to carry a knife, lived near the location of the first murder, matched physical profiles from witness statements and hated women. "I cannot help feeling that this is the man we struggled so hard to capture fifteen years ago," said the Ripper hunter in an interview conducted in 1903 with the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

Abberline pointed out that the date of Chapman's arrival in England coincided with the beginning of the series of murders in Whitechapel and that the Ripper murders ceased when he left for the USA, where Chapman was later tried and hanged for the murder of his mistresses. Chapman had also studied medicine and surgery in Russia – leading Abberline to state that some of the Ripper murders constituted the work of an expert surgeon. The inspector also recalled a story in which a wealthy American gentleman had offered to pay a sub-curator at a pathology museum for organs – perhaps connecting this anecdote with evidence that the Ripper had removed several organs from his victims. "It seems beyond belief that such inhuman wickedness could enter into the mind of any man," said Abberline of his theory. However, the retired policeman admitted that 15 years later, Scotland Yard was none the wiser as to the Ripper's identity. The same can be said over 125 years later; Jack the Ripper is an enduring mystery whose identity seems destined never to be revealed.

An illustration depicting Jack the Ripper attacking one of his victims

© Corbis Alamy, Thinkstock

Top 5 facts DICK TURPIN

INFAMOUS HIGHWAY ROBBER, ESSEX, ENGLAND, 1706-1739

DICK TURPIN
English, 1706-1739

Brief Bio

A farmer's son, Dick Turpin was born in Essex in southeast England, where he worked as a butcher's apprentice before he and his gang gained notoriety for attacking rich farmhouses in Essex. After a brief spell as a highway robber, Turpin escaped to York where he adopted the guise of a gentleman before being caught and executed.

01 He was caught shooting a chicken

Though he had committed numerous crimes during his life, including murder and robbery, he finally met his comeuppance when he casually shot and killed a prize fowl owned by his landlord. When he appeared at court, the truth of his past life as an outlaw quickly came to light.

02 Turpin started out as a rustler

He is famed for being a dashing and daring robber, but Turpin actually started life as a cattle rustler and began his criminal career by stealing two oxen. Comically, he was caught in the act and was forced to flee to escape certain arrest.

03 He was only briefly a highway robber

Though most interpretations of his life have characterised him as the dandy highway robber, he and his gang mainly broke into farmhouses. Still, he did terrorise the roads of Epping Forest for a while, before returning to his more familiar pastime of rustling.

04 He didn't ride from Westminster to York

Legend has it that Turpin rode from Westminster to York in only 24 hours, but this has been proved to be untrue. This story is based on a journey made by another criminal, John Nevison, who rode over 190 miles (305 km) in under 20 hours to provide an alibi for a robbery he committed in Kent.

05 He was executed

On the day of his execution Turpin was led through the streets of York, bowing nobly to the watching crowds. He was so keen to end his life in pomp and ceremony that he even hired mourners to follow him to the scaffold, where he promptly leapt unaided to his death.

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